Friday, October 12, 2012 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 306 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ to 2899 (GLOBE/TM) to 4407 | www.inquirer.net | Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

5-PEAT CHAMPS Ateneo Blue Eagles Von Pessumal (11), Finals MVP Nico Salva (3), Juan Nicolas Elorde (4), Isaac Jules Lee (7-1), Gerpe Matthew Capacio (12) and Gideon Balolarin (21) rush from the bench after the final buzzer to join their teammates and supporters celebrating Ateneo's 5th straight UAAP men's basketball crown at mid-court of Smart Araneta Coliseum yesterday. Coach Norman Black, who'll be returning to the PBA after the celebrations, steered the Blue Eagles to a 65-63 conquest of the UST Growling Tigers for a sweep of their title series. (See story in Sports, Page A29.)

MILF deal signing turns int'l with top leader-guests

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE QUEST list for the signing of the Bangsamoro deal in Malacañang on Oct. 15 indicates the government's intention to give its preliminary peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) international recognition.

That should clear the way for a final peace agreement with the MILF to supersede the peace deal that the government signed with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in 1996.

The 12,000-strong MILF broke away from the MNLF after the signing of the 1996 agreement...and had become the dominant group fighting for Muslim self-determination in Mindanao.

Having laid down the foundation for a final peace agreement with the government, the MILF is now poised to start building the Bangsamoro homeland and take for itself the

MILF / A16

Enrile memoir: 'Tripoli Agreement was a sellout' / A16 **+ Nur calls gov't offer of seats to MNLF an insult** / A10

Gringo, Chiz rally behind Ako Bicol lawmakers

By Norman Bordadora

EVEN with three senators and a host of congressmen from the Bicol region, lawmakers see nothing wrong with additional representation from a party-list group like the discredited Ako Bicol.

Senators Gregorio Honasan and Francis Escudero yesterday expressed disappointment in the decision of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to disqualify Ako Bicol, the topnotcher in the 2010 party-list balloting.

"Based on what I know, historical records including the

BRINGS / A12

Recto betrayed us, says BIR chief

Senator's ₱15-B sin tax way below ₱60-B target

RECTO: In accessories, it's called equilibrium

By Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

ET TU, Brute?

The last words of Julius Caesar to his friend Marcus Brutus as he confronted his assassins on the Ides of March reflected the sentiment of finance and health officials a day after Sen. Ralph Recto reported out the Senate version of the sin tax reform bill.

The bill proposed by Recto's ways and means committee envisioned increased revenues reaching P15 billion in new tax rates for tobacco and alcoholic drinks—way below the projected P60 billion targeted by the departments of finance and health.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares said that officials of the two departments had given Recto's panel "soup: nutrition, assistance and all the data" he needed.

"They put in hours of work, till the wee hours of the morning," Henares said in a news conference at the Department of Justice yesterday. "A lot of them felt betrayed."

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, one of the authors of the measure, called on students and social media users to register their protest against what she called the "death star bill."

"I am gobsmacked—speechless with amazement—at the committee report. It bears no recognizable resemblance to my bill. It is an object surrender to the very rich and very powerful tobacco and alcohol lobby," Santiago said in a statement.

"Under the Santiago bill, government will raise P60 billion for the first year. By contrast, the Recto bill will earn only P15

RECTO / A20

Who's afraid of Juan Ponce Enrile?

By Cathy C. Yuzuan

WHO IS afraid of JPE?

Twenty-six years after he silenced political opponents as Ferdinand Marcos' martial law administrator, Juan Ponce Enrile either still evokes fear or those hoping he would be ousted as Senate President are too disorganized to get him out of his post.

The number of senators needed to topple Enrile is

WHO'S / A11

Batman writer, girlfriend sued by Pinay beauty queen

THIS is dark—even for The Dark Knight.

A former local beauty queen-actress who worked for legendary comic-book writer Frank Miller said she was put through hell by the "Batman" scribe's gal pal, according to a report from The New York Post.

In a Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit, 43-year-old Joanna Gellardo-Mills, better known as Dindi Gellardo, said Miller's "Sin City" creator's

BATMAN / A11

Subic military base buildup vital to DND, US

By Tarra te Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The plan of the Department of National Defense (DND) to develop a military base inside the Subic free port is a critical part of the country's national security program, a defense official said.

It is also critical to the United States' plan to "pivot" to Asia, a new military strategy that will see 60 percent of US warships shifting to the region by the end of the decade.

The planned shift, announced earlier this year, has drawn sharp criticism from Beijing, which sees it as a strategy to contain China, an emerging military power whose increasingly aggressiveness in asserting its claims in Southeast Asian waters is causing worries in the region.

While Washington has sought to assure Beijing that the strategy is not intended to box in China, the United States has proceeded to conclude agreements with Singapore and Australia that will allow shelter for US war groups in the region.

The United States also conducts regular joint military maneuvers with Asian countries, often billed as civil-military exercises for disaster preparedness.

SUBIC / A19

Online workers in slippers new BPO face

COCOONING: Sheila Ortiveza works where her heart is—right in her own home in Lipa City, where she gets to look after her sleeping daughter.

LIPA CITY—Far far from the world of regimented cubicles and headset-toting call center operations, a quiet revolution is stirring in its slippers.

University librarian Sheila Ortiveza, for example, was so poorly paid that half her salary went to child care, and her meals amounted to dried fish and one fried egg per day. Four years on, she juggles two daughters, a husband and two Pomeranians as she catalogues e-books online from her private couch.

ONLINE / A11

NATION	METRO	NEWS	LIFESTYLE	ENTERTAINMENT
2 dead, 2 cops hurt in CDO bombing / A19	Another 'Alabang Boy' acquitted / A25	Freedom of info bill is in ICU / A10	Bring back Old Manila, cry the youth / H1	Marilou Diaz directed her own vigil-burial / J1

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

6/42	
1/2/05	17 24
10/31/04	28 4
10/24/04	4 9

SUERTRES
4 2 2
9 6 2
8 8 8

SIX DIGIT
5 4 8 0 6 9

6/45 LUZ-VIS-MIN
15 18 19 23 36 39
P3,275,833.60

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
19 23 28 35 41 48
P16,000,000.00

Red 'had friends in high places'

Olalia kin say fugitive RAM leader used connections to hide for 30 years

By Nikko Dizon

THE FAMILY of murdered labor leader Rolando "Ka Lando" Olalia is not at all surprised that Red Kapunan, a former Air Force colonel and leader of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), managed to hide for nearly 30 years.

"They (RAM) were influential for a time. And they had connections in high places," said human rights lawyer Edre Olalia, a nephew of the late leader of the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Edre added that Kapunan did not have to actually hide for the past 16 years because the RAM leader's legal arms was "smearing down the legal system, taking advantage of its weaknesses and loopholes, and craftily testing the borders of the (legal), lawyer said ruefully.

"He just ran out of options when the chips were down. He probably thought it would just go away over time, but justice never really had any prescriptive period or deadline," Edre added.

Kapunan is one of the principal suspects in the murder of Olalia and his driver, Leonor Alag on orders mediated broken were found in Antipolo on May 13, 1990.

It was suspected that the murders were a prelude to the "God Save the Queen," a coup plot by the RAM to rid the Corazon Aquino administration of left-leaning members. The left-leaning Jose student activist Lean Alejandro was murdered.

Edre, the secretary general of the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) that serves as one of the private prosecutors in the Olalia murder case, said Kapunan's surrender came as a "pleasant surprise" to the Olalia family.

Why military custody?

They learned of the RAM leader's surrender only last Wednesday at the pretrial of another suspect, Romeo Ego. Lenient Perez as the Antipolo Regional Trial Court Branch 90 (see Branch 30 in earlier reports).

That Kapunan remained in military custody, detained at the Philippine Army's Civil Military Unit (CMU) in Fort Bonifacio, does not sit well with the Olalia family.

For Edre, it was "highly irregular and unconstitutional, if not suspect."

"The military officers keeping him may arguably even be charged for keeping him because they have no legal authority nor any court order to do so," Edre said.

He pointed out that the "lower ranked" Perez, who surrendered in July, is under police custody. "What is the difference of his situation with Perez?" Edre asked.

Sought for comment, Army spokesperson Brig. Rhoel Gilbuena reiterated that the court has been duly informed that the military has custody of Kapunan.

"We are waiting for the court's commitment order (on where to bring Kapunan next). We did not say we would not follow the court," Gilbuena told the Inquirer by phone.

Gilbuena added that it was the duty of the military to assist anyone who asks for its help as it was part of its mandate to serve and protect the people.

'Why are we jailed and Honasan's free?'

HEFTY FINE: The government's offer of amnesty to two Magdalo soldiers have asked a Makati court to rule on the coup charges filed against them for their alleged roles in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

In a 29-page memorandum, Trial Lieutenants Lawrence Jose Jose and Ret. C. Bolo asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to acquit them of the charge of committing coup d'etat, as the same time they questioned why the (left) alleged mastermind, Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, was cleared early on while the case against them was continued.

"It is most respectfully prayed that judgment be rendered acquitting Clint Jose and Brdet of the crime of coup d'etat for the failure of the prosecution to establish their guilt beyond reasonable doubt," their counsel said.

Jose Jose and Bolo are the only remaining accused in the case which initially had 322 respondents in August 2003.

The charges against 290 respondents were dismissed while another group pleaded guilty in 2008. The rest of the accused accepted the amnesty offer made by President Aquino in October 2010. Philip C. Tubeza

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Senate deadlock looms over Amla amendments

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

A DEADLOCK looms as the Senate is set to vote on the last round of amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) with some senators airing concerns over certain "improvements" made to the law as required by a global group monitoring terrorist financing.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, chair of the banking committee, said several colleagues are worried over an amendment requiring businesses like real estate companies and jewelers to report their transactions.

There were also questions about the introduction of an ex parte provision that does away with a prior court order to a depositor before the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) freezes his cash or suspicion that it was illegally acquired.

The same ex parte provision would also apply to cases of suspected tax evasion.

Senate schedule

However, Osmeña is confident that all issues have been ironed out after a caucus called on Wednesday by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

He said the Senate majority has already laid down a schedule where all proposed changes to the present AMLA would be received on Monday and its approval on second and third reading would take place on Tuesday.

A bicameral conference that would reconcile the differences between the Senate and House versions of the bill fast-tracked next Tuesday so that the two chambers can ratify the resulting bill on Wednesday.

President Aquino would then sign it into law Thursday in time for the Oct. 19 deadline set by the Paris-based Finance Action Task Force (FATF).

The Philippines is required to present the new antimoney laundering law to the FATF to avoid being included in the global monitoring group's blacklist.

Malacañang earlier warned that inclusion in the MTF blacklist would make it difficult for overseas Filipinos to transact business using global banks, especially for remittance purposes.

Too optimistic

However, a senator who requested anonymity said Osmeña was being a bit too optimistic on the Amla amendments schedule.

The senator said some of those who attended the Wednesday caucus voiced their objection to the ex parte provision.

"The concern is that user's assets would be frozen on mere suspicion, despite the lack of conviction in a competent court on the say-so of the AMLC," the senator said.

The senator added that colleagues wondered why no penalty would be given to the bank that accepted the suspected criminal's deposit when it is supposed to exercise due diligence before accepting him as a client.

"And then if AMLC makes a mistake in freezing an account, the innocent party suffers," the source warned.

The senator said no consensus was reached during the caucus because members of the minority bloc that raised concerns over some amendments had already left by the time the majority was laying down the schedule for their approval next week.

No consensus

"There was already a deadlock during the session. The Senate could not agree on that consensus. A caucus is supposed to achieve a consensus but there was no consensus," the senator argued.

Whether the minority would agree to approve the bill next week remains to be seen.

"The minority did not indicate whether they agreed with the majority's proposed schedule or continue to incapacitate," the senator said.

Osmeña said he expects Senate minority leader Alan Peter Cayetano and Senators Manuel Villar and Jinggoy Estrada to introduce amendments.

"I'm not saying we will automatically adopt them. That would be difficult. But we should be able to pass this by the end of the session on Tuesday and immediately hold the bicameral meeting that night," he added.

Osmeña said it would be possible to approve the amendments in the Senate on second and third reading since Malacañang had certified the measure as urgent.

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS
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Ex-education chief Hidalgo named FUSE head

FORMER Education Secretary Fe A. Hidalgo was elected president of the Foundation for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE), ahead of the group's 10th anniversary in December.

Hidalgo succeeded the late Rep. Salvador H. Escudero III, one of the founders of the nonprofit, research organization, who died on Aug. 15.

"FUSE's six accomplished volunteer (the Dr. Hidalgo set the tables of FUSE, we are a non-stop implementation of our stated programs for teachers. Her primary and tested leadership in the education sector will certainly be an asset for the foundation," FUSE volunteer and vice chairman Lucio C. Tan said in a statement.

Hidalgo, holder of a doctorate degree in philosophy from Australia's Macquarie University, is also a member of FUSE's Board of Trustees.

A professorial lecturer at University of Santo Tomas and visiting lecturer at Ateneo de Manila and De La Salle University, Hidalgo is also the convenor of the 8 to 12% values education.

FUSE will hold a training course for teachers at the Mabini Campus, Ateneo de Manila University on Oct. 22-26. The program covers English, Physics, Chemistry, Elementary Science and Mathematics.

Earlier, the founding fellows met on Sept. 28 to 29 at Antipolo Valley Resort in Sapang Palay where Hidalgo was elected.

Jehovah's Witnesses confabs

THE ARENA, convention of Jehovah's Witnesses will start on Oct. 19 at the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Mandaluyong City, San Juan City and will continue for 11 consecutive three-day weekends ending in Dec. 30.

For this year, the theme of the convention is "Safeguard Your Heart" which will simultaneously be held in 40 other Philippine cities.

The convention will highlight activities in the form of lectures to be delivered in English, Tagalog, sometimes in the Bible of sign languages of Jehovah. This year's theme is based on Proverbs 4:23 focusing on strength and using our spiritual.

It, according to a press statement from Jehovah's Witnesses.

It will encourage self-confidence and to be obedient to God, having to schedule meetings that will help us make wise decisions, improve family life, strengthen our personal relationship with God and find true happiness.

About 60,000 delegates from Luzon are expected to attend the 11 weekend conventions at the Assembly Hall in Quezon City, while the total attendance from Visayas and Mindanao is expected to exceed 400,000.

Jehovah's Witnesses said it is inviting everyone, including those of other faiths, to attend and "learn more about your heart." The program sessions start promptly at 9:20 a.m. in all three days of the conventions. Admission is free as all conventions are supported by voluntary donations.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday - October 12, 2012
27th Week in Ordinary Time
Gal 5:7-14

Our Reading:

Today we read about three men who follow the ways of faith are sons and daughters of obedience.

The scriptures instruct that by the way of faith, God would give true righteousness to the man, both Abraham. For God's promises to Abraham was that he too shall all the nations be blessed. Because those who take the way of faith, by means of faith, are children who believed, but those who live by the principles of the Law are under a curse, for it is written: Cursed is everyone who does not observe fulfill everything written in the Law.

It is plainly written that no one becomes righteous in God's eyes by the Law, by faith, the righteous shall live. For the Law gives no place to faith, but says that the man who fulfills the commandments shall have life through them.

Now Christ rescued us from the curse of the Law by becoming cursed himself for us, for it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree. In the blessing granted to Abraham reached the nations through Jesus Christ, and we received the promised Spirit through faith.

Gospel: Luke 11:15-26

As Jesus was casting out a devil, some of the people said, "He drives out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the chief of the demons." Others tested him by asking him for a heavenly sign.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every nation divided by civil war is headed for ruin, and one family will fall. If Satan also is divided, his empire is coming to an end. How can you say that I drive out demons by calling upon Beelzebul? If I drive them out by Beelzebul, by whom do your fellow members drive out demons? They will be your judges, then.

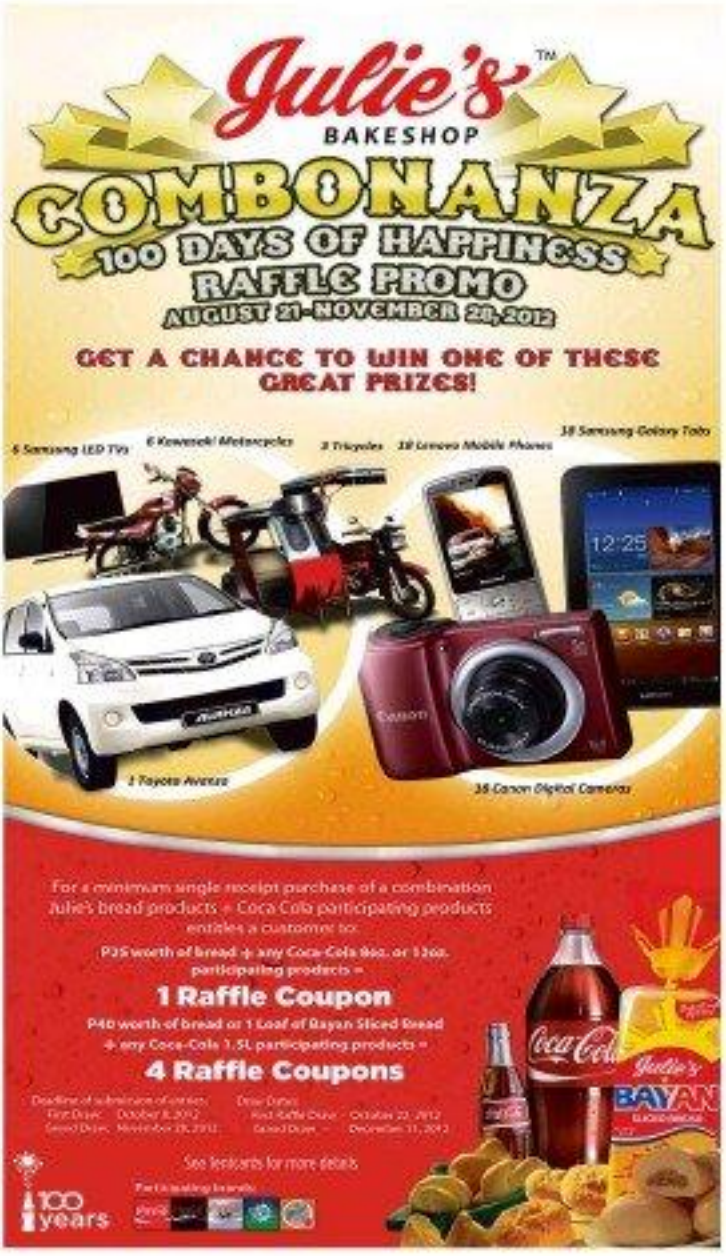
But suppose I drive out demons by the finger of God, would not this show that the kingdom of God has come upon you? No one can enter the strong and robbed him, unless he binds the strong man first. Then he can rob his house.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

When the evil spirit goes out of a person, it wanders through dry lands looking for a resting place. And finding none, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds the house empty and everything in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits even more evil than itself. They move in and make their home there, so that the last state of that person is worse than the first."

Reflection

Jesus did not say "I sense that you may be able to cast out your demons." Instead, he says that you may be able to cast out your demons. "If" implies a condition. "If" implies that we are responsible for problems, we have to find the remedy of life. We are not simply victims of life's problems, we are responsible people, and must approach problems responsibly. Amen.



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Toyota recalls 22,000 units of various models

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. is recalling 22,000 units of various models that are available in the Philippines.

In a statement sent via e-mail, Toyota said it is recalling Camry, Corolla, RAV4, Vios and Yaris models because of faulty electric windows. These models are now being manufactured in Japan and Thailand.

To date only one instance in produce safety and quality, Toyota has initiated a Special Service Campaign (SSC) for specific Camry, Corolla, RAV4, Vios and Yaris models produced from 2005 to 2012 in the company said.

The above is part of Toyota's worldwide recall of 7.4 million vehicles, the company's largest for a single year, (See related story on page A27.)

The affected vehicles have a sliding electrical resistor point in the driver's side power window master switch that may experience a "smoke" or "sticking feeling" during operation which causes the harness to get stuck.

Toyota warned that if vehicles are operated in non-Toyota dealer and commercially available lubricant is used, the switch assembly may melt.

The recall in the Philippines is part of a global recall of 7.43 million vehicles.

Toyota said it is already starting to identify and inform owners of affected vehicles.

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ONLY 8 DAYS REMAINING AT THE SHOW!

OCT. 12TH & 13TH AND OCT. 15TH-20TH @ SMX CONVENTION CENTER

WELCOME TO THE ROADSHOW!

On behalf of everyone here at the Great Canadian Roadshow, we would like to express how excited we are to finally come to the great country of the Philippines. The variety of items we see never cease to amaze us, as people have continuously brought to extraordinary treasures that we have purchased. We invite everyone to bring in their items, FREE OF CHARGE, and sit down with an expert and have them examined. We are looking to purchase a variety of antiques, collectibles, precious metals (gold and silver jewelry), sterling silver tea sets and cutlery and all coins with silver or gold content. We are expecting in our hundreds of people walk through our doors during this event, and we are looking forward in seeing all of the amazing items this country has to offer!

ITEMS WE MAKE AN OFFER ON MAY INCLUDE

GOLD JEWELRY

Broken gold, used jewelry, earrings, chains, gold links, dental gold, class rings, charm bracelets, etc.

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Canadian, Pesos, and all different types of gold and silver commemorative or collectible coins.

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All different types of collectibles, including toy cars, dolls, instruments, war memorabilia, comic books etc.

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● BREAKING NEWS

ONLY 8 DAYS LEFT TO CASH IN AT THE SHOW IN MANILA!

By: Michael Ross
Great Canadian Roadshow
Staff Writer

The Great Canadian Roadshow will be in the great country of the Philippines until October 20th! Now is your chance to take advantage of this opportunity and have your items evaluated by one of their professionals! People from all over the world are in possession of some very rare items and may not even know it!

The Roadshow experts will provide you with an accurate and fair evaluation of all your valuables, FREE OF CHARGE, and will also educate you on anything you need to know.

Since their inception, the Roadshow has been traveling across the world, searching for all of your forgotten treasures. They accept virtually anything, so don't be afraid to bring in that old family heirloom or even your grandfathers old coin collection because you never know what value they may hold.

Expert John Fleming explains, ***"Due to the recent increase in the price of gold and silver, we have seen a large increase of traffic towards the Roadshow. During these tough economic times, people are simply looking for any way to help their financial situation. GCR experts can provide you with useful information about your items and even offer a value for the items right on the spot."***

The Great Canadian Roadshow specializes in precious metal evaluation, specifically gold and silver, and they are looking at all different kinds of necklaces, bracelets, rings and anything else you feel holds some value.

At a recent Roadshow event, a customer walked in with a box full of coins he got as a child from his grandfather. Not knowing their true value, he brought in his collection for our coin experts to examine.

"We uncovered a rare British Sovereign minted back in 1948", explains GCR expert Joe Wilson. ***"He also brought us a bunch of his vintage gold and silver coins that we were able to analyze and evaluate. Even though they didn't have rare mintages, they were still extremely valuable due to their gold and silver content."***

After his experience, Ray Matthews was able to cash in with an incredible $3,800! ***"I never expected to get anything for all these old coins. Now I can finally afford to renovate my basement"***, explains Mr. Matthews.

Traveling across the world since 2010, the Great Canadian Roadshow has been seeking out the world's most unique items. Gold and silver jewelry, sterling silver, pocket watches, antiques and rare collectibles are examples of items being purchased at the show. Remember that this service is FREE OF CHARGE, so be sure to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

SMX

CONVENTION CENTER

HOME OF THE GREAT CANADIAN ROADSHOW!

The Great Canadian Roadshow invades Manila

By Joel V. Hilyon
Photos by Eugene Kristoff

For years, gold coins, silver, gold scrap, jewelry (including the broken ones) and other collectibles which have been lying around in your houses or are just kept in "drawers from" for years?

That may not know how much value those items have and how much money are behind those collectibles. You may also have been keeping so much treasures and you are totally clueless about it.

The Great Canadian Roadshow (GCR) is giving you the chance to showcase your years(s) of items as they are now in Manila so much people almost their antiques, collectibles, jewelry and more!

The road show is at the SM Megamall Annex, Mall of Asia Complex in Pasay City, Metropolitan Rooms, and is open from Monday to Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. no. SUNDAY.

Mike Mallin, a toy and collectibles expert, and who is managing the roadshow, shares why they decided to go to the Philippines.

"We've been doing this for almost three years now mainly in North America and in Europe. In our road shows in Canada specifically in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary we were able to assist Filipinos who turned in their valuable collectibles and [also encouraged us to come to the Philippines."

He adds, "When we came to Manila we didn't know what to expect. What we've found were very hospitable, very warm people who have a lot of antiques and collectibles and jewelry and cold stuff that have been lying around in their homes that they didn't know that have so much value." The Great Canadian Roadshow is the first in Asia.

Mallin says that they have experts, from jewelry to silver flatware and silver coins, who appraise the items presented.

"If we don't know how much value the items have, what we do is we take photos of the items and send them via e-mail to collectors in North America and Europe. Immediately we can get a response including relevant information, pricing, fair/market quality. Then we'll offer to buy specific items," he adds.

Mallin shares that in just a week they have already paid items worth above P1 million and have made a lot of people happy by leaving the roadshow.

Collectible Philippine coins which were valued at by a collector

How it works

People who want to turn in their valuable items for cash whether they are coins, gold coins, collectibles, silver, gold bullion, gold scrap, all jewelry (unless you don't want to drop by at SM Megamall Convention Center.

Items that will be presented will be appraised into three three different categories: (1) Items GCR collectors are currently looking for, (2) Collectible items with value but may not be valuable to their collectors, and (3) Unobservable items such as gold, silver or jewelry including the broken ones.

Once an expert has looked at the items, an offer may be made to buy specific items. The offer that will be made will be based on current market values. Once the seller accepts the offer, the buyer will need a little more to do the requirements table and will be paid on the spot.

Humble beginnings

The Great Canadian Roadshow began in July 2009 when Rick Ehrlsberg and Terry Kingston took their passion for antiques and collectibles on the road.

It eventually developed into a company that traveled across Canadian cities seeking unique and authentic collectibles. From the historic to sentimental records or celestial wonders villagers in the cosmopolitan heart of the big cities, from town to city to county was initiated for this entertaining genius. The items assessed, bought and bought by the GCR are many that old and fabulous. Age, beauty, rarity and personal emotional connection, make each item unique to sellers and buyers.

Over the years, the GCR have discovered objects that represent a precious era or time period in human society. It is a common practice for the team to uncover objects over 100 years old. The GCR take pride in honoring craftsmanship, historical design while discovering antiques. Each journey tells a tale to be history books. Within any given time one has a story of humanity.

Rick is a successful businessman and "entrepreneur since birth" as his mother likes to say. He has a passion and collectibles in his life from a young age. His grandmother collected anything and everything, and as a result I became really interested in the world of antiques as a young boy and that interest never really faded."

Terry, on the other hand, was on a completely different but no less interesting career path. Terry maintains a non-superficial approach to collectibles and pre-historic memorabilia, acknowledging his love of Greek heritage and the antiquity that accompanies it.

What sets GCR apart from similar companies are their objectives. "Sharing knowledge is an integral part of our job, it is not an overnight sell it. Our assets are our clients and our collectors, not the items we discover, buy, or treasuring someone about an object is just as important to us making a business transaction."

The team has seven long-term team-building beginnings. From their modest start as a backyard sale now, the company is firmly featured as where they are going, and we hoping to see you there!

Rare and collectible Philippine coins were just some of the many items The Great Canadian Roadshow bought from sellers.

Mike Mallin looking at some jewelry

The Great Canadian Roadshow team of experts (from left), Erin Ehrlsberg (buyer), Mike Mallin (top and collectibles) who also manages the roadshow, Vanessa Dumont (silver buyer/pro), and Tina Zadel (silver buyer)

Binay to explain new accord with MILF in Europe meet

By Tara Quimpando

MILF President Ameril Ampatuan Umra is expected to discuss with top European officials the new agreement between the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) when he visits Brussels next week, his office said yesterday.

Binay is set to fly to Belgium to take part in the European Development Days (EDD), "the premier European forum on international affairs and development cooperation" that gathers world leaders annually. The global meeting is scheduled on Oct. 16 and 17.

PH-Europe talks

On the sidelines of the EDD, Binay will meet with top officials of the European Union, including European Commission (EC) president Jose Barroso, for talks on Philippine-Europe relations. The EC is the EU's executive body that handles the bloc's legislation and policy.

Among the key points that Binay is expected to discuss with Barroso is the recently signed framework agreement between the government and the MILF, and the creation of the Bangsamoro country that will replace the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao," said the Office of the Vice President in a statement.

The EU was part of the International Monitoring Team that observed peace negotiations between the Philippines and the MILF in Kuala Lumpur. The bloc recently welcomed the framework agreement, calling it "a major step towards long-lasting peace in Mindanao."

The EU also gave the Philippines a P468-million grant to support the Mindanao peace process through confidence-building measures and sports-for-development activities, including the clearing of undetonated ordnances, its delegation in Manila said.

Plans to move forward

EU Ambassador to the Philippines Guy Ledoux said the meeting will be a chance for the EU to learn about the Philippines' plans to move the agreement forward.

"The EU and a number of its members have been congratulated the Philippine government on Monday for the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the Framework Peace Agreement with the MILF. The visit of Vice President Binay provides an excellent opportunity for the Philippines to explain the road ahead regarding the Bangsamoro Basic Law process," Ledoux told the business newsletter.

He said Binay is also set to meet with four EC commissioners to discuss development cooperation, aviation issues, (its) seafarers' training standards in Europe, with the region a major employment area for Filipino sailors.

Binay's Brussels trip comes ahead of his visit to the Vatican City, where he will lead the Philippine delegation that will witness the canonization of Blessed Pedro Calungsod on Oct. 21.

For want of conference room, freedom of info bill is in ICU

By Leila B. Salaverria

TAÑADA

THE FREEDOM of information (FOI) bill is in danger of crippling in the House of Representatives due to scheduling delays, with one of its main proponents blaming the lack of space for a debate in the lawmaker's cozy nest.

Quezon Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III noted that the bill had been reset for hearing on Nov. 13 from its last October schedule, and that Congress will only have had four sessions (all) one morning held on the next year.

The bill has yet to pass the committee level and supporters are worried there will not be enough time to pass it on third and final reading before Congress adjourns for the 2013 election campaign period in late March next year.

Eastern Samar Rep. Ben Evardone, chair of the committee on public information, said the Nov. 13 schedule was final, adding that there was plenty of time to pass the bill.

Hearing schedule delay

Earlier, he had said the lack of an available conference room had prevented him from scheduling a hearing this month.

"Representative Evardone placed the FOI in the ICU, on life support, gasping for breath," Tañada said yesterday.

He said that should the committee approve the measure on Nov. 13, there would be only a maximum of six (the bill to be) voted on and passed by the plenary before the end of the year.

The bill could host the November deadline if Speaker Feliciano Belmonte allows it to be discussed in the plenary together with the reproductive health (RH) bill, Tañada said.

Aside from being final, Evardone said the Nov. 13 date had already been cleared with and approved by Belmonte. He said he would send out the invitations to the hearing to its various stakeholders.

Sought for his reaction to Tañada's statement, Evardone said he remained hopeful the FOI bill would be passed into law.

Plenty of time

"We still have plenty of time—remember, the 15th Congress still has up to June next year," he said.

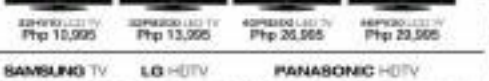
He said his committee could come out with a report after one or two hearings. The bill would be passed by the plenary before the Congress Christmas break, he added.

The FOI bill would give the public access to government records and documents, making its transactions transparent in order to battle corruption and promote good governance.

One of its proponents, Albayalde Rep. Nicanor Bello, earlier suggested that a push from Malacañang, as well as House leaders, would ensure that Congress would see on the bill, which Aquino's ruling his campaign for the presidency had promised would be passed.

LISTENING IN STYLE
CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

TOSHIBA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LIKE CHICKENJOY

Fast-food chain to help tourism dep't sell PH

By Tina G. Santos

PHILS be was appointed tourism secretary, advertising executive Nanette Jimenez said the Philippines would be so easy to sell to Jollibee's Chickenjoy.

The tourism chief has brought that assertion a step further by signing on the popular fast-food chain to an official partner in the government's "It's More Fun in the Philippines" campaign.

Jollibee is one of the country's most iconic brands, which have helped define the Filipino way of life and culture ... Jollibee is an absolute symbol of a happy successful Filipino," said Jimenez at the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Jollibee Foods Corp. on Thursday.

As one of DOT's official campaign partners, the fast-food giant will promote tourism in the country through initiatives that highlight the reasons why domestic and foreign travelers alike should visit or take a trip around the Philippines.

Under the agreement, Jollibee will designate a dedicated service in selected branches for tourist information maps to be provided by the DOT and participate in major Philippine festivals.

Jollibee Phil. president Joel Mariano said the company is all set with Jollibee's more than 200 outlets nationwide which will act double as tourist information centers. Eventually, this could be expanded to include the chain's stores overseas.

"We are proud to be given the opportunity to work with our country through the DOT. Personally, I believe that what keeps us consistently on top is also what sets the Filipinos apart from the rest of the world, and just like the DOT we as Jollibee also believe that the Filipino is our country's best asset," Mariano said.

Jollibee is a former client of Jimenez who invoked the fast-food giant's widely popular chicken product when he was presented to the media shortly after his appointment last year.

Private sector partnerships

"This is the just the first in a series of partnerships we hope to forge with the private sector. But I'm not surprised at all that it should begin with Jollibee. It's one of the fun brands in the world. A Filipino brand. It's probably very auspicious that private sector participation should begin this way with Jollibee," Jimenez said.

He said Jollibee's wide network of stores across the country can help the DOT in amplifying the government's tourism initiatives.

"With a brand close to the hearts of Filipinos supporting the campaign, we hope to encourage more people to take an active role and be part of this exciting and fun endeavor to be tourism industry," he said.

Mariano said Jollibee is also exploring the possibility of offering discounts to foreign tourists and overseas Filipino workers.

Jollibee is also set to launch the Happy Filipino website, which will feature fun facts about the Philippines.

The website will carry the two-part video of YouTube sensation Bogoy the Ex-pinoy called "The Happy Filipino," where he is seen treating a foreign guest around the Philippines and showcasing the Filipino's hospitality.

Travelers will also get a chance to go around the country via the launch of a video-making contest.

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Sandigan defers ruling on GMA detention

By Gretchen D. Ridoña

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday deferred deciding on a motion to detain former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who stands accused of the non-bailable crime of plunder, until after it hears the report in court of her attending physicians on her treatment and condition.

Associate Justice Rosmari Carandang, chairman of the antigraft court's First Division which is hearing the case, set for Oct. 18 the next hearing for both government prosecutors and Arroyo's defense counsels to determine when Arroyo should be detained as well as the presentation of doctors.

Lead prosecutor Dinnah Lagunilla said since the health condition of Arroyo, now a representative of Pampanga, has remarkably improved, she should soon be transferred to a regular jail such as a detention center in Camp Crame or the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

"Her dehydration has been corrected and she can now be discharged," Calenga said the antigraft court. "The fact that she is seeking a second term [as representative of Pampanga] is an indication that she is already well.

But Arroyo's lead counsel Anacleto Diaz insisted that his client should continue to stay at the government-owned Veterans Memorial Medical Center because she needs to undergo rehabilitation and physical therapy, and not in jail.

"There's no need to be vindictive about this. After all, she was a former President... like former Presidents Estrada and Ramos. She is also equally a national symbol," said Diaz.

Calenga insisted, however, that physical therapy can also be done in Camp Crame or the NBI.

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

He said placing Arroyo under hospital arrest would be unfair to her other detained in the plunder case, noting that former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) president Sergio Valencia and PCSO Director Jo Fabanco Bocalan Aguas are detained at the PNP Custodial Center.

Diaz said instead of celebrating the former President, she should be admired for her dedication to public service by seeking reelection in a congressional.

"She ought to be admired. Despite being sick she wants to serve. The last act been convicted are like the boys disqualified by any court is inhuman," he said.

The Sandiganbayan earlier set for Oct. 18 the arraignment of Arroyo, Valencia and Aguas for plunder in connection with their alleged misuse of the agency's P366-million intelligence and confidential fund.

The three were among the former officials of the PCSO and the Commission on Audit (COA) who the Office of the Ombudsman found probable cause to indict.

The other accused are former PCSO general manager Rosario Uriarte, PCSO directors Manuel Morato, Raymundo Roquero, Jose Tuno V. and Mr. Felicia Valdez Asmen COA chairman Reynaldo Villar and COA Region 4 head Helen Pena.

Acting on requests by all three justices of the Sandiganbayan First Division that there was no sufficient basis to reverse the Ombudsman's findings that the 10 had conspired to misappropriate the P366-million confidential and intelligence fund of the PCSO.

Last week, the antigraft court issued an arrest order for Arroyo and 10 others for alleged malversation of the PCSO funds.

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together with its accredited institutions, celebrate the success of Dr. Rosita L. Navarro, PACUCOA chairman and Consultant for Quality Assurance and TQM and Professor, Graduate School of St. Jude College for having been awarded the prestigious Juran Medal for 2012 by the Philippine Society for Quality (PSQ) in recognition of her achievements as role model in promoting quality.

Dr. Rosita Navarro, you are indeed an epitome of quality and excellence!

Half of Filipino Catholics shunning church weddings

By Tina G. Santos

MORE than half of Filipino Catholics have not gotten married in churches, according to a survey conducted by Radio Veritas. Catholic organizations said this could be because church weddings are deemed costly.

Sociology professor Fr. Clifford Sorita said that the radio station conducted a "truth survey" during the second quarter of the year which showed that the majority or majority of Filipino Catholic couples were not blessed in churches.

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' (CBCP) media affairs director Msgr. Pedro Quitorio III described the results of the survey as "very alarming."

"The Catholic Church would have to reason out the problem. This is a serious problem and we have to do something," he said.

CBCP Episcopal Commission on Doctrine of the Faith vice chair Bacolod Archbishop Fernando Rosales for his part said that the survey results showed the need for an apostolate [mission of an apostle] to get Catholic couples to marry in church.

"For the Christian law of the Christian family is Christian marriage. You cannot have Christian families without Christian marriage," Rosales said in a statement.

Some 2,000 respondents from the 86 archdioceses and dioceses covering all the 17 regions participated in the survey called "The Filipino Catholics."

The results showed that 50.2 percent of those surveyed had no current (life) relationship, that they were married or living while 7.5 percent openly admitted that they were not married. Only 42.3 percent of the couples replied that they were married in a Catholic Church.

Sorita believes that the 50.2 percent of those who answered "No" were not married, but were either co-habiting or that they were living together and not civilly.

"The Filipinos, if you are married why would you not say that you are married... They are embarrassed, they are not comfortable. They would rather hide or anonymity and not answer the question directly," he said.

He also explains that the remaining 7.3 percent of those who admitted they were not married might have tried to civil this or were living in together and then might even add to the number of Filipino Catholic couples who were not wed in churches.

Sorita clarified that in the survey, civil marriage was not considered as marriage at all "because the respect is that you have to be married in a church."

Asked why Filipinos appear disinterested about getting married, Sorita said it was because of the perception that getting married in churches was expensive.

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FREE ENTRANCE

Get weather reports from Noah mobile app

THE OFFICE that provides information on the Project NOAH website of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) will soon be accessible on mobile phones, thanks to a developer.

Smart Communications Inc. is launching this week the NOAH mobile app for Android devices such as smartphones and tablet computers. "TOAST" stands for Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards, a responsive disaster mitigation program developed by Project NOAH. The website was recently the target of a hacking attack, which was thwarted by DOST experts.

The prototype of the mobile version was originally done in HTML5. It was developed by Solly Balatti, along with his Smart colleagues Dahlia Yuson and Joy Alonzo, during the first HTML5 Hackathon at Davao City capitol. Balatti, Smart developer lifetime mark. The prototype was awarded "Best Use of Smart APIs."

The NOAH mobile version is to be launched was specifically developed for mobile platforms.

Balatti, who earned his bachelor's degree in computer science at a DOST scholar, said his inspiration was his fellow Mandaya, a Subanen from the village of Banggasan in Baganga, Davao Oriental.

"Most of the weather reports are sent to fishing communities are the first ones affected by weather disturbances because they are out at sea," Balatti said. Constantly worried about his fellow, he became passionate about weather forecasting, getting information from websites such as those of Pagasa and Japan Meteorological Agency.

"If there's a brewing typhoon, I cannot directly call or text any fishermen to warn him and his fellow fishermen," Balatti said. "When we heard about Project NOAH, we imagined how valuable the information and the images could be, especially to them."

Balatti was interested in the Project NOAH website because of the website has other features that could accompany Project NOAH on his mobile phone, many of the apps would still be in the screen and the menu was hard to navigate. The only solution he could think of was to develop a mobile version of the site.

NBI agent sacked over kidnap

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday ordered the dismissal from the service of a National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agent it found guilty of grave misconduct for his involvement in a kidnap-for-ransom case.

In a separate decision, the Ombudsman found sufficient evidence to hold NBI Special Investigator II Samuel P. Medalozo guilty of grave misconduct and acted not to him the penalty of dismissal from the service with all its attendant penalties.

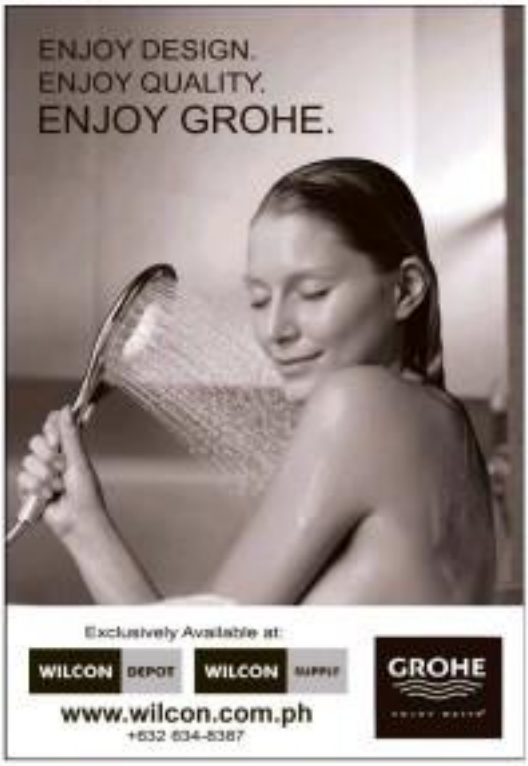
The case stemmed from a letter by then NBI Director Nestor Mantaring to the Ombudsman recommending the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Medalozo for violation of Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code in the kidnapping of one Pamaygan Dumarat.

During investigation, it was established that on March 14, 2000, Dumarat was forcibly taken, dragged into a vehicle and physically assaulted. Later, people introducing themselves as agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency called up Dumarat's wife and demanded P1 million for his release.

The wife negotiated with them until the amount was lowered to P500,000. It was then the wife sought the help of the Philippine National Police's Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response Director's group, which staked out the NBI compound on Taft Avenue, Manila, while Dumarat the agents on payoff duty.

The Ombudsman also based its decision on the reports of the NBI Internal Affairs Division and the Davao operatives.

Cynthia D. Baluma



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

120 days

THE TEMPORARY restraining order issued by the Supreme Court, "enjoining the [government] from implementing and/or enforcing Republic Act No. 10175 (Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012)," is a welcome decision. We join the many who think it was the right legal call, considering the new law's immediate chilling effect on fundamental rights such as free speech.

EDITORIAL We also share the view of a few who think it was the right political call.

The entire the Supreme Court released after it met en banc on Tuesday consolidated all the 15 petitions filed against the law, ordered the parties and the government's chief lawyer to respond within 10 days, set oral arguments for Jan. 15—and issued a TRO effective for 120 days. The vote, we understand from reliable sources, was unanimous.

All of this explains the swift and powerful impact the Court's action had on the political discourse. (The legal impact, naturally, was equally immediate.) The unanimity of the vote sent an unmistakable signal that the issues at bar were of paramount importance, and that there was strong support among the justices for the course of action they had chosen. The deliberate pace with which the Court decided on its course of action (it did not issue the TRO last week, when it had its first opportunity) suggests that the Court managed its decision-making process precisely to make that unanimity in view possible. We get the same sense of careful process management in the Court's scheduling of oral arguments: over three months after the TRO took effect, about a month before the TRO expires. This leaves the Court enough time to write an opinion that will both attract a solid majority and come out before the TRO lapses.

We must also consider that the original TRO period of 120 days has had what amounts to a diplomatic effect on the members of the houses of Congress, the very people who passed the law. Many have been persuaded to see it not so much as a slap on the wrist but as a first shoving gesture.

We firmly believe that the cybercrime law's provisions on libel and the so-called takedown clause are unconstitutional, and continue to trust that the Supreme Court will, if push comes to shove, find that these same provisions violate the Constitution. But the Court's course of action seems to have been designed to allow Congress itself enough time to find its own remedy. This is what we mean when we say the Court's decision was politically wise.

The other day broadcast journalist Ted Failon asked on his radio program: Why schedule the oral arguments for January? Isn't the matter important? Why the lack of a sense of urgency? Failon may have temporarily forgotten the lessons he must have learned in a true-blue congressman, but if he were back in Congress, wouldn't he welcome the Court's unexpected reprieve? The TRO's suspension of the law removes much of the latter's urgency, but the fact that the suspension is only temporary leaves the issue's importance in place.

And fear remains: That's enough time for Congress to debate the cybercrime law on its own; the Court must have taken notice of the ongoing attempts by at least six legislators in both chambers to file amendatory bills. There is even another alternative. The Senate and the House of Representatives can use the reprieve as an opportunity to finally decriminalize libel. Objections to the current libel regime have always revolved around its criminal nature. They have never been about evading responsibility, but only about removing the onerous, disproportionately outmoded criminal liability imposed by the 6-decades-old Revised Penal Code.

If Congress responds the way we think it is being invited to do so, then the Court's 5-page order released on Tuesday may mark a true milestone in the developing maturity of our political institutions. The Supreme Court acted courageously to protect the public from a wildly denounced measure, and yet allowed Congress to undo the damage it had caused without needing to judge the lawmakers' own, original lapse in judgment.

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We can't trust current politicians to Cha-cha

THE POLITICIANS we see upon. They want, again, to change the Constitution, with the government's preliminary peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as excuse. They said the phrase/word/substance of "asymmetric federalism" in the Framework Agreement, which will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, will need a constitutional amendment.

Ms. Sarah Lou Arroyo Eleazar, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Teresita Quintos-Deles, the government lead negotiator at the Peace Table, and Leguina, the guy allowing the Bangsamoro to have a "substantial" form of government, will not need to change in the Constitution.

"It's [still] part of the Philippines [and] under the direct supervision of the President," Deles said.

The form of government of Bangsamoro will be parliamentary while the Philippine government is presidential.

But Deles said "there's nothing [in the Constitution] that says the form of government [of the Muslim autonomous region] should [also] be considered."

The Constitution did not expressly prohibit the autonomous area in Mindanao to adopt a parliamentary form of government, Deles explained. But the autonomous region should [also] be decided by the people she added.

Misleading and it will not ask Congress for a constitutional amendment.

The lawmakers' desire to change the Constitution is understandable. They want to [also] allow them to do that. With the establishment of Bangsamoro as mayor Ito Cha-cha, they will change provisions in the Constitution contrary to their interests. They will abolish term limits to congressmen (so they'll stay members of the House for life. They will remove the provision against political dynasties and then divide the country into fiefdoms ruled by political dynasties equivalent to the heads of the medieval ages. They will increase their salaries and allowances, that is obvious. The theory has already approved a bill that will make taxpayers finance the campaigns and party development expenses of political parties. What will they devise?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

And they will change our government into a parliamentary system. That will prevent the people from choosing the Chief Executive. They will have no say on who they want to rule them. Instead, it is the members of parliament (MPs) who will elect the prime minister from among themselves. You can then imagine the very boring (but will happen) in the halls of parliament. That is one reason Lumakdans wants a parliamentary system.

The MPs will also be the members of the Cabinet, as there will be no Cabinet and balance between the executive and legislative branches of government. So you can imagine the corruptions that will be made possible. The biggest corruption cases in the world were in parliamentary governments—in Korea and Japan, for example. The prime ministers of those nations were not jailed, but only after absconding with billions of dollars of the people's money.

The prime ministry is emboldened to exist because all the members of the legislature and executive branches are members of his party. He keeps them quiet by distributing pork (in the Philippines, they will be politically incorporations because the members of the minority will all jump into the majority party.

So may the people but do the business community should be wise of a parliamentary system. Aquino may be popular now, but in two years, business will notice the stalling case of a parliamentary government. If you don't give, your business will suffer. That means businesses will have to increase the prices of their products to cover the payoffs that they distribute to persons and entities that demand that they have to pay more for the things that they need.

So let us not be fooled by this song-and-dance that the Constitution has to be amended to legalize the creation of the new Bangsamoro homeland.

Actually, Bangsamoro will be the old ARMM in a new costume. The powers will not be new, with a few more items included, and the people will be the same. The same Muslim warlords will probably continue to rule their fiefdoms.

I do not know how the new peace agreement will address the lack of jobs in Mindanao. Most of the residents in Mindanao is currently suffering poverty. The Muslims are forced to rob and kidnap and ask for ransom for their victims as a means of feeding themselves and their families. They have no jobs. Give them jobs and the robbery will diminish.

It is not only rice, meat and vegetables that are being smuggled into the Philippines in large quantities but also substandard steel angle bars from China that are used in the construction industry. Above the pure sugar and imported tax-free ukay-ukay was smuggled in cigarettes and alcohol.

The rampant smuggling, in container vans, of China-made steel angle bars is killing the local steel industry. Because of its dummy-wide study, it is estimated that 40 percent of the local market is flooded with smuggled angle bars, mostly from China.

Construction engineers be warned. These smuggled steel bars are cheap but they are substandard. They are of poor quality and may not have the correct strength. But they are used in the construction of tall buildings and bridges, putting the structures at high risk of collapse. Use of these smuggled steel bars is a major risk to the safety of the public. They violate the Philippine National Standard 007:2009 for steel angle bars.

They are manufactured by backyard steel mills in China that have no quality control. When brought into the country in container vans, they are mixed with steel products that do make the payments of the correct taxes and duties.

Bar exams: rote memory rather than real MCQs

THE SO-CALLED Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro now needs to conform to other documents. For instance, it proudly declares: "The relationship of the Central Government with the Bangsamoro Government shall be asymmetric." Asymmetric? Actually, nanay don't be not upset, "devil peeves," but it doesn't say who is subordinate to whom. If the intention was to say that the Bangsamoro Government is a subordinate political subdivision of the national government—as it should be, no two ways about that—that absolutism hasn't been there the Judge noted is "asymmetric," which creates an ambiguity that can be a fresh source of conflict in the future.

Second, the Agreement says, "The Bangsamoro shall have competence over the Shari'ah justice system." Whatever happened to the Supreme Court's power to establish and ordain courts? Here the Judge noted is "competence," as if that is shared by the executive branch bestowing power the high court's exclusive power and sharing it with the new entity called Bangsamoro.

The third Judge noted is "vast territory." The Constitution uses the term "territorial jurisdiction," while the organic act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao refers to the "area of autonomy." Why add a new term to the lexicon of self-determination? If there is a "vast" territory, there's got to be a peacefully organization from that entity. It means that the Agreement expanded the ARMM area but that is just the start. Worse, it does not secure the borders equally for both the central and Bangsamoro governments. It's one-sided. It secures the territorial integrity of the Bangsamoro, which can expand in scope against the central government. This is most worrisome, especially if seen side by side with this other Judge noted, "asymmetrical."

Finally, the negotiators say that the Agreement is "consistent with the Constitution." But the Agreement includes clauses that the Supreme Court has already rejected in its 2008 decision on the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain. (Confusion v. Cliff Peace Panel). For instance, the Court struck down in 2008 the term Bangsamoro identity, and yet the 2014 peace accord uses the term to describe the entire new Bangsamoro homeland.

Actually, Bangsamoro will be the old ARMM in a new costume. The powers will not be new, with a few more items included, and the people will be the same. The same Muslim warlords will probably continue to rule their fiefdoms.

I do not know how the new peace agreement will address the lack of jobs in Mindanao. Most of the residents in Mindanao is currently suffering poverty. The Muslims are forced to rob and kidnap and ask for ransom for their victims as a means of feeding themselves and their families. They have no jobs. Give them jobs and the robbery will diminish.

It is not only rice, meat and vegetables that are being smuggled into the Philippines in large quantities but also substandard steel angle bars from China that are used in the construction industry. Above the pure sugar and imported tax-free ukay-ukay was smuggled in cigarettes and alcohol.

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PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

By almost two decades already, I have sat on the UP Law Center committee, consisting of law professors from several law schools, to suggest answers to the annual bar exams. During our session by the last Sunday's exam in Political Law, some committee members noted that the questions were not genuine Multiple Choice Questions (or MCQs, as they are now famously called), but rather more tests of rote memory, even of guesswork and, worse, the right answer sometimes was somewhat obvious on the face of the question itself.

Last year, I proposed the MCQs as the most radical reform ever introduced in the past century in the licensing system for new lawyers. I joined both the bold vision and careful implementation by the last year's bar exams chairman, Justice Rodolfo Azcuna, before law dean at University of Santo Tomas. Despite initial hesitation, we finally adopted the MCQ-type exams that has become the mainstay of bar exams abroad and of board exams given locally for other professions. I still believe that MCQs are the way to go for the Philippine bar exams.

However, its problem with the MCQ is in its operation. Our year—and there's still time to remedy this for the third and fourth Sundays of the exam—is that the secrets from what MCQs are supposed to achieve. The goal was to test the candidates' analytic skills by enabling him/her choose the best answer from a list of four plausible legal conclusions. Ironically of the 100 multiple choice questions this year, seven involve factual settings that call on the examinee to apply the law to the facts. The other 93 called for the rote remembering of legal provisions, and worse, in abstract cases.

Moreover, there is a more basic problem of test design. On exam was simply too long to be completed in four hours. The exam consisted of two parts: the easy 100 personal-trial MCQ (10 questions per hour). The more part composed 20 questions clustered under 10 "numbers." The MCQ composed 100 questions. Even assuming that some MCQs required minimal thinking because the listed options offered no real choices, still there is a problem when the Philippine bar exams is given in a three-hour session (no more than one's ability to think, a marathon rather than a decathlon. And to think that when the examinees finish their morning exam, they get lunch for lunch and then proceed to another whole three hours of exams in Labor Law/ Mercantile Law/Taxation. And won't it supposed to be "twice as gruelling"?

Finally, it's bad enough that last year's bar examinees were graded not by a stated requirement, but they're revised the exam this year again! Indeed, word is that the allocation of passers will be reduced—and even rise to lower the weight of MCQs to 20 percent.

We must remember that in the Philippines, law professors value their teaching to the bar examinations. Likewise not, in the words of admissions operations, typical Philippine law graduates have to study for the bar exams. Both groups feel cheating, it becomes impossible to prepare students for whatever kind of exam will be required for the time they graduate. For now, the best available remedy is to mitigate the flaws and uncertainties of the 2013 bar exams by setting up a reasonable passing rate of at least 50 percent (comparable to last year's 51 percent rate).

Comments to rpangalangan@gmail.com

Who owns the country?

(Concluded from Monday)

A SURVEY of the holdings of Philippine business conglomerates across industries shows a map of the control of strategic sectors of the national economy by a few business conferees. This overview is graphically provided, not by a microscopic examination of corporate balance sheets and financial statements submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission, but by data based on findings of the distribution of corporations in control of certain sectors.

Since ordinary citizens or taxpayers are not investment, this spectrum is probably the most expeditious way to have an idea of who owns the country—or what business interests have enjoyed control of most of the wealth and productive assets of the economy. Forbes magazine's list of the 40 richest Filipinos (billionaires and multibillionaires only) gives us a superficial view of who control much of the wealth of this country and the high urban enclaves.

The starting point of this inquiry is the recent pitches of the attempt by a group of companies clustered around Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., including the Ayala Corporation, to buy majority shares in GMA7, the second largest radio-TV network in the country, and merge it with ABS-CBN, which Pangilinan's group acquired in 2007. If the proposition (which GMA7 had rejected) would have gained control of 60 percent of the radio and TV air-waves of the two networks would have placed them in a stronger position to compete with ABS-CBN, the company leader, owned by the Lopez family.

The listings of the corporate holdings of the PLDT group of companies (Philippine Telephone Co., including its 47 Pangilinan-controlled companies) by business conglomerate in the Philippines: Philpotels, Businessworld, and other sources (automotive Pangilinan's group investments, and for various positions, this):

Metrobank (director and chief executive officer of Fred Pacific Co. Ltd., listed in Hong Kong stock PLDT; president, Manila Electric Co.; CEO and executive, Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (2008 to 2009); chair, Manulife Money Services Inc., since 2007; chair, Metro Pacific Tollways Development Corp.; chair, Philex Mining Corp. since 2008; chair, Philex Petroleum Corp.; chair, Board of Medical Doctors Inc.; which operates hospitals and medical services; and chair, Manila Medical Center Foundation).

In the First Pacific Group, Pangilinan holds the position of president (commissioner of JT Intellectual Asiacom Thailand Co. Ltd., the largest fixed company in Indonesia. He chaired the board of Indonesian Satellite Corp. Tbk. (INDOSAT) last month, after he narrowed his "complete satisfaction" with Asiacom over "irreconcilable differences" on the issues of naming and the Depreciation Double Bill.

These investors' corporate investments roll up that the PLDT group requires every aspect of our life as citizens, ranging from the water we drink, the food we eat, the electricity we use, our education, our health facilities, our communication systems, and our public infrastructure. In information and ideas we get from radio-TV and newspapers. The network, this pervasive presence of business enterprises, is worm and bone dangerous than that of the Big Brother state.

The second wave is to have the Philippine group moved to expand its foothold in the mass media with the bid to buy out GMA7 to consolidate its control of radio-TV networks and assure broadcasts in which it already holds minority shares of stock.

In Australian banks, there's a big debate over moves by mining billionaires such as Gina Rinehart and Clive Palmer to buy up a bigger slice of the Australian media. In an article in The Conversation journal, Richard Ossman, a professor at the Crawford School at Australian National University, warned about the danger posed by these moves to press freedom.

Rinehart is reported to be the wealthiest person in the world. She is the heiress of Hancock Prospecting and daughter of the late Lang Hancock. According to Wikipedia, she bought stakes in media organizations, becoming the largest shareholder of Fairfax Media (which owns Melbourne Age, Sydney Morning Herald and Australian Financial Review), and is now taking a significant share in her Network Holdings.

In his article in The Conversation of Feb. 14, 2012, Ossman, who is executive director of the think tank Australian Institute, points out that the mining industry is spending an estimated $28 million on TV advertisements opposing the tax reduction of a mining tax.

He writes that Australian pages of the major dailies "have often served as a dense squad for the mining industry's determination to control as much as it can."

Ossman writes that the mining industry has been working hard, and successfully, to separate the Australian media from its social, cultural and political responsibilities. Rinehart's small proposed purchase of 10 percent of the Fairfax media group is a step to consolidate control over editorial policy by simply adding up the total votes for the top shareholders.

"The media can and does play an important role in democracies. It provides both scrutiny and platforms for diverse views and debates in the nation. But that role is becoming harder and more contestable," Ossman writes.

He notes that "the prospect of mining moguls having unregular shots of the Australian media has understandably made many otherwise cautious about the future of public debate in Australia. The question is how it is all Australians want to limit the capacity of those with the greatest wealth to influence what the country sees, hears and reads."

There he asks: "When the powerful buy into the media, can the media still maintain the powerful?"

By the same token, can we allow business conglomerates to expand their holdings in the media?

Women an essential part of peace-building

"TRUE WILL be no significant rehabilitation or reconstruction of war-torn societies without women's participation," the Transitional Commission on Women (TCW) and the Moslem Women Mindanao said in a statement hailing the recent signing of the Framework Agreement." The agreement between the government and the MILF paves the way for the creation of the "Bangsamoro" that will take the place of the last autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and for the reign of peace in Mindanao.

In addition, the women's groups hailed the "critical roles played by women members of the private individuals" in the negotiations that were instrumental in the crafting of the historic agreement." The groups also commended "the many Bangsamoro women who have relentlessly pursued diverse and creative ways to end the conflict and push for a peaceful agreement that would include their meaningful participation in the creation of a new entity for their people."

A previous demand of the MCW and Mothers for Peace was that women representatives should be appointed to the Transitional Commission (Transcom) that will be formed and will oversee the establishment of the Bangsamoro by 2016.

Signed by Jessie M. Jumingo, chair emerita and CEO of the MCW and convenor of the Mothers for Peace Movement, the statement noted additional demands it deemed necessary in the "post-conflict" period: some special protocols governing women's participation and gender equality that would be included in the peace agreement; women's access to be the drivers of economic growth by putting appropriate resources in their hands quickly; and women's involvement to ensure the full implementation of UN SCR 1325 and 1820 that recognize women's role in conflict and post-conflict areas, promotion of human rights, and participation of women in all levels of decision-making in the peace process.

* * *

THE MCW is an NGO composed of women leaders, most of them based in Mindanao, whose mission is "to influence public policy

Vatican II +50

YESTERDAY MARKED the 50th anniversary of the opening session of Vatican II, for a country that is predominantly Catholic. You are pained at how little has been said in the media about this very important event, especially at a time when the Catholic Church is going through such fit mood.

"Vatican II is one of several monumental councils, meetings of the world of Catholic bishops, archbishops and cardinals—that have been held over several centuries. Of these ecumenical councils, Vatican II is particularly important: the Council of Trent, Vatican I and Vatican II.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The Council of Trent was convened in 1545 and stretched into 1563, organized mainly to condemn Protestantism and to define Catholic doctrines. It declared that the Catholic interpretation of the Bible was final and that all who gainsay his interpretation were damned to a horrible fate. It issued several decrees on numerous issues ranging from original sin to the sacraments, from a reaffirmation of clerical celibacy (which began only in the 12th century) to a ban on duels. The Council of Trent also upheld the powers of indulgences, the veneration of the Virgin Mary, saints and relics—vast points which had been attacked by factors that sparked the Reformation and Protestantism.

There were clergy within the Catholic Church who wanted more reforms and they were able to make some gains, such as forbidding the sale of indulgences, and more subpoenas were issued to the bishops of the whole Catholic hierarchy, but the Council of Trent ended up reaffirming most authority and powers to the Pope and the cardinals. It was after this council that the Catholic Church began its index (a list was prohibitions, lists of censored books. The Council of Trent also removed for the Pope the sole authority to issue the final imprimatur or approval for the Catholic Church's catechism.

Vatican I was convened in 1869, this time to condemn the rise in Europe of Enlightenment ideas and liberalism, and to declare papal infallibility that is, that all decisions of faith or morals defined by the pope ex cathedra can never be wrong. The declaration of papal infallibility was controversial and 80 members of the council eventually left Rome in protest leaving to approve the First Dogmatic Constitution on the Church of Christ, which contained this declaration. The issue later led to a schism, mainly German Catholics, who formed another Catholic Church in protest.

The Council of Trent and Vatican I were clearly worried of a church that was being challenged by the world. Pope John XXIII's opening address in Vatican II on Dec. 11, 1962, aimed hopes of a new era in Catholicism. The Pope acknowledged the importance of the Catholic Church's part of "solemn and venerable voices, throughout the East and the West, from the fourth century to the Middle Ages, and from there to modern times." At the same time, the Pope also observed: "Side by side with these matters for spiritual joy however there has also been for more than nineteen centuries a cloud of sorrows and of trials.... In the daily exercise of our pastoral office, we sometimes have to listen, much to our regret, to voices of persons who, though burning with zeal, are not endowed with too much discretion or sufficient learning. In these modern times they can see nothing but prevarication and ruin..."

The Pope could not have been more explicit in giving his opinion: "We feel we must disagree with those prophets of gloom, who are always foretelling disaster, as though the end of the world were at hand."

What I remember of the sweeping changes within the Catholic Church, perhaps the best way to explain what Vatican II meant is to describe the spirit of Catholic life before and after 1962. I belong to the generation that came through that transition and can notice some of those changes that had the greatest impact on people.

Before 1962, priests taught a catechism which emphasized what not to do. We prepared for confession with a printed guide for the examination of conscience: mortal sins in bold print, venial sins in light. I remember a religion teacher who kept keeping about attending Sunday Mass, never using the Lord's name in vain, and not eating meat on Good Friday one Saturday, was killed in an accident and went straight to hell because that was a mortal sin.

It was an unforgiving church for believers, and it was even harsher about "nonbelievers," such a close that there was no salvation outside the Catholic Church. Anyone who was Chinese and Catholic was difficult to understand why my mother, despite being a catholic, dared to defy these prohibitions and told me she thought the veneration of Catholic wooden statues of saints was even worse than offering incense to ancestors.

I recall how a good friend, everyone was to dress for and memorized the entire Mass in Latin, both the priest's and the congregation's texts. The priest said Mass with his back turned to the congregation. It was all very rote, women were not allowed to assist at the altar, and all very solemn, mysterious... and distant.

After Vatican II, Mass began to have Mass in English and Filipino, with the priest facing us. There was more lay participation, including women reading both readings and later to college. I was to meet the new canon who had left the old tradition of their convent to work with the poor.

Open Catholics

It did take time for the changes to become clear. The index of forbidden books was abolished early in 1966, but you heard no wine still carefully warned about dangerous books (one of my priest mentors did not like Freud), and his servants were there were still postings in our school bulletin board of a Catholic classification of films that paralleled our grades. The first grant of pre-camp, B for adults and C for condemned Mass.

I realized how much more had to be done when I was touring Oman in the 1990s with a group of Chinese-Filipinos. I noticed how the younger ones, devout products of Catholic schools, were still worried about the changes in the liturgy, which looked to them to be deviations.

It's curious that in the Philippines, not only have the term speaking speaks to mean those who cling to old Catholic practices and beliefs. In Spanish, there are the terms católicos estrictos and católicos abiertos. I like that second term, even if we never have had strong forces in the Philippines.

Vatican II was the most significant event in the world, allowing both we into the Catholic Church. It was Catholics learning to dialogue with and listen to people of other faiths. It was Catholics learning that salvation came from faith and good works, and that sins of omission, such as not providing food to the poor, could be more grievous than sinning Mass.

Reading the 1965 opening address by Pope Paul VI was like it was a continuing invitation to Catholics to better understand and appreciate the Church fathers (and, lately, medieval), and, strengthened by those legacies, to move forward with courage and to engage the world.

* * *

E-mail: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

One asap reason for FOI bill's enactment

THE GOVERNMENT, through its Government Service Insurance System, has implemented several new and revised retirement/pension benefits (e.g., Republic Act 7699 of 1994, RA 660 of 1961, RA 1616 of 1957 which expired in 1997, Presidential Decree 11 dated 1972 which expired in 1997, and the latest, RA 8291 of 1997).

The government-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) implemented the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) I and II in the early 1980s and 1986, respectively, following the advice of its international consultants in the face of the deep recession during this era before "optimal tax era" of martial law in accordance with the rule of law, the program should have been covered by PD 1146 which states that retirement or separation can only be availed of by those in the service after May 31, 1977, but prior to June 24, 1987, and the retirees have rendered at least 15 years of service in order to be entitled to Old Age Pensions, or Cash Purchase for those with less than 15 years of service.

Applied for retirement under ERIP I effective Jan. 1, 1983, after working with the government for 18 years (1969-1986) without any gap in the continuity of payment of my GSIS by my employers: the University of the Philippines (Diliman) and DBP (Makati).

Based on Rafael Salonga's gathered through the internet, (after being told reversely by a GSIS Quezon City clerk that I was retired under RA 1616), I realized that DBP grossly violated the law since its ERIP program did not apply to RA 1616 of 1957 which states that to qualify under the funds, a retiree (1) must be in government service as on October 31, 1977; and (2) has rendered at least 20 years of service regardless of age and employment status. On top of this, since DBP membership became compulsory through EA -1968, which was implemented in 1980, a gap of at most 12 years (1968-1980) of no contributions of premiums was made the basis for not granting pension by GSIS; instead refund of premiums for at most eight years (1969-1977) was made. Since we only got Identification Badge/Cards based and effective also, like Presidential Decrees, exemption of the law in their favor, those of us in the lower level management and rank-and-file were denied benefit for retirement as we classified-ages. It is good that I worked with a progressive-minded organization for another 12 years which granted me a modest quasi retirement, the Silliman Social Security System, pension, that is not even been good for those retirees classified from working-class pensions.

Here is the person high-ranking me, there are plenty of information on public internet bidden by the government from the people. Therefore, one particular example that provides more reason why the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill must be passed if the Aquino administration is seriously committed to social progress and promoting equity, justice, as her program-of-

—EMILIANO FERRER, JR.
wandcon@gmail.com

Cheaper solution to Malabon flooding: new floodgates

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways should not waste money making Congressman Luisa 'Loren' Legarda and Governor Jejomar Binay and me or even bridges in Malabon City. They will not compete but instead worsen the flooding of the Streets.

Building locks are the most effective defense against rain floods—and whatever storm-surges that flows over up-stream locks are separated by a raised Governor Pascual Avenue from the rain flood coming from the La Mesa watershed.

Together with what we already have against rain flood, the DPWH should proceed to build the raised floodgates (FC-1 at Vitas and FC-2 at Sangkiaan) to turn the 43.75 hectare (estuarine surface area) Tenejeros-Tinejeruan-Tullahan (TTT) rivers to 200 percent storm flow-outflow (of into the Malabon sitting tank, which should be complemented with three big pumps for FC-1 and FC-2.

After one or two days of continuous heavy rain, our TTT basin, given the normal daily 2-to-3 hour evaporation or lowest tide level, may overflow. The floodgates should be opened for two to three hours—low to zero or pump-out. At lowest tide level, the floodgates should be closed to stop the tide from flowing in and to make room for the still-coming rain water. At the time, the pumps should be kept running. This can be done during the ave-season (June to September).

Cutting the dry season (December to May), FC-1 and FC-2 can be used as rivers/dredge the entire TTT rivers—at no cost. The process is easy, clear/open FC, high-low tide, the new inflow and low outflow of the tides do it for free, every day, for six months... unless there's no rain, then you need for the TTT basin.

The DPWH should not make an issue of estimates above the FC-1 and FC-2; they simply won't work.

—ARCH. LAUREANO SE., MSCE
MSCE and architect,
technical advisor of Malabon/Navotas
Central Advisory Council,
360 Pinay Ave., Quezon City

Wrong logic of saving poor kids from misery

IN HIS Oct. 7 editorial "Unwelcome choices," the Inquirer says some must be sacrificed for the passage of the reproductive health bill. This is what it presented the case of Nina Nicole, the recipient of the International Children's Peace Prize. Nina's story is a truly moving one of how a child who suffered much because of poverty has found shelter because of sheer and sheer misfortune.

The editorial then makes the connection to the "the sheer number of children brought into this world by parents unable or unequipped to plan their families and thus care properly for their offspring." Thinking that this fate of the poor bringing into this world children they cannot support is a great social malady, the editorial goes on to say that this is "a situation that obliges the government, particularly the leaders, to take a long-term, proactive stance in preserving and saving Filipino children [and their mothers] by passing the long-debated reproductive health bill."

The assumption is that the RH bill will prevent the poor parents from bringing children they cannot raise well into the world.

But the logic seems to go something like this: save the poor children by preventing them from existing. Now, just think... what kind of logic is that?

Instead, I invite you to look at Nina. Thank God his parents—the poor parents—saw fit not to destroy Nina's life but instead to give her a chance to live. The editorial itself makes this point with its own words: "I pray for the people who will listen to my speech. May I implore them to do some good for the many children of the world. This is what I want to give to so many other children as possible.... I want children in the streets to get the same chance that I had."

Nina would not have had all the chances to do what she did if he (his) did not have the chance to live, if (he) he did not exist.

I'm not saying the poor should not plan their families. I'm saying, educate them and so them how to do children their wrong.

—FR. EUGENE J. McCABE
contact@ecmf.org.ph

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Justice
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Magallanes Drive, Intramuros
1002 Manila

NOTICE

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : REVISED HIRING AND PROMOTIONS QUALIFYING EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Please be notified of the following revisions to the Hiring and Promotions Qualifying Examination Schedule:

A. EXAMINATION SCHEDULE - October 25, 2012

TESTING AREA	VENUE	TIME
Manila	DOJ Multipurpose Building Padre Faura Manila	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Baguio	CNS International Langyago School	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Tuguegarao	St. Paul University	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Tarlac	**to be announced**	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Batangas	Batangas District Office	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Naga	University of Nueva Caceres	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Iloilo	John B. Lacson Maritime University, Molo, Iloilo City	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Cebu	University of Cebu Banilad Campus	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Cagayan de Oro	Liceo University	8:00 AM - 12:00 NN

B. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS

1. Less than 26 years old
2. Civil Service Professional Eligibility
3. Of good moral character
4. Must pass the qualifying exams
5. Physically and mentally fit to undergo intensive training
6. College Degree from a reputable school

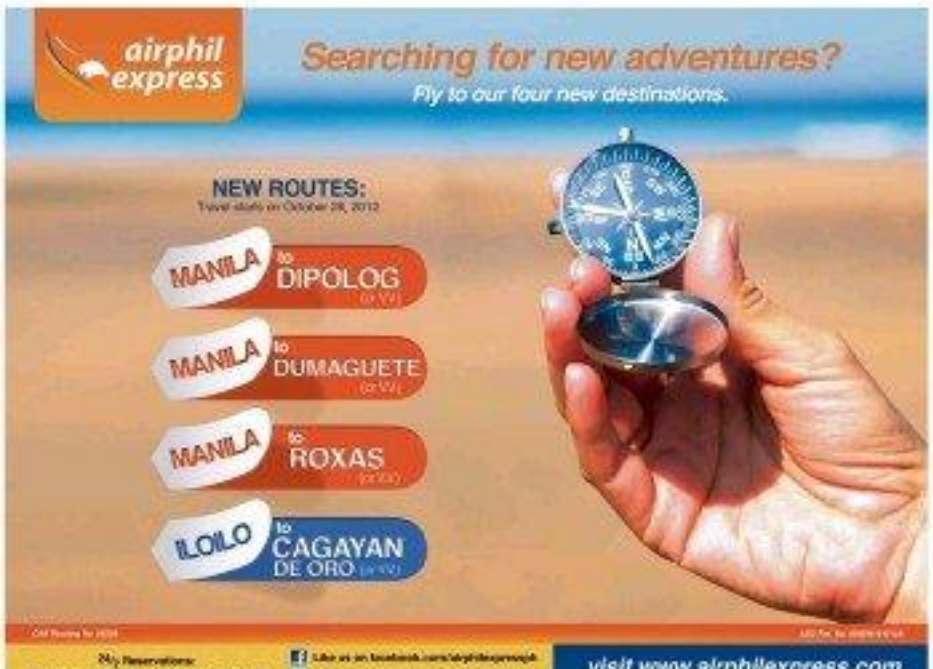
C. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

1. Cover Letter addressed to Hon. Siegfrid D. Hilario as Chair, Personnel Selection Board indicating the position applied for
2. Resume/Personal Data Sheet
3. Proof of Eligibility
4. NBI Clearance
5. Proof of Academic Qualifications (Diploma, Transcript of Records)

D. IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. Cut-off date for submission of applications for hiring is **12:00 NN** on **October 19, 2012, Monday**.
2. Preliminary Panel Interviews shall be conducted immediately after the qualifying exam.
3. Only those who will pass the qualifying exams and the preliminary panel interviews shall be considered for final deliberation of the Personnel Selection Board.

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Danilo M. Lopez, Chief, Personnel Section at Tel. Nos. 527-3278/527-4240 or Ms. Ma. Ida Chan at Tel. No. 338-3330/E-mailed: — www.immigration.gov.ph



Probe of conversion of gov't's 24% stake in SMC sought

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has been asked to determine whether any laws were violated in the conversion of the government's 24 percent stake in San Miguel Corp. (SMC) into preferred shares, resulting in a possible revenue loss of P1.6 billion.

The conversion could be a violation of Republic Acts 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees), and 7080 (An Act Penalizing the Crime of Plunder), and other pertinent laws, said leaders of several farmers groups and private citizens in a complaint affidavit.

The complainants also asked the Ombudsman to determine the culpability of the government officials of the previous Arroyo administration who backed fund in the conversion.

Sequestered in 1986

The 24 percent government stake in SMC consisted of more than 753 million common shares in the name of the Cocoun Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) and its holding companies, which were established for coconut farmers during the Marcos regime.

The shares were sequestered in 1986 by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) after the first Edsa People Power involution, on the basis that the shares were illegally bought using money from the coconut levy fund.

In September 2009, the Supreme Court granted a motion from the then Arroyo administration to convert the government's SMC common shares into Series 1 preferred shares.

The high court held that the conversion was "advantageous to the public interest or will result in clean and material benefit to the ownership/beneficial stock owners, be they the ultimate farmers or the government itself."

With the conversion, the SMC was given the option to redeem the preferred shares at P75 each any time it wanted, with holders of the preferred shares getting only an assured eight percent dividend in exchange for converting their shares.

Disadvantageous

On Oct. 5, 2012, SMC exercised this option, and opted to redeem 753,098,202 Series 1 preferred shares at the price of P75 per share, for a total of approximately P56.5 billion.

On the same day, however, PCGG Chair Andrew Bautista announced that the PCGG was looking for legal remedies to undo the greatly disadvantageous conversion of those 24 percent stake during the incumbency of his predecessor, Camilo Sabio.

In its "Preliminary Report for the Truth Commission," the new PCGG described the conversion as "a questionable decision/agreement."

Anomalous transaction

An audit made by the current PCGG leadership of all past transactions and deals entered into during the Sabio administration showed the conversion of the government's SMC shares as "one of the biggest, multi-billion anomalous transactions" made by their predecessors.

According to Bautista, the primary issue with the conversion was the lack in price of the government's preferred shares (series 1, which it can now only sell for P75 per share.

"The government is estimated to have lost billions from the conversion, especially in view of the recent upsurge in the share price of SMC, which has been pressing on aggressive diversification move under its president and chief operating officer Ramon Ang," according to the complaint affidavit.

Ang is the right hand man of SMC chair and chief executive officer Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., who was appointed by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos as the administrator of the coco levy funds, which were the proceeds of a tax that the dictator imposed on the coconut industry.

Missed windfall

The complaint said that at the P109.39 share price of the common shares, the government would have reaped a windfall of more than P120.23 billion if the shares had been sold at that price.

With the conversion into preferred shares, which the SMC could redeem anytime at the lack in price of P75, the government only stands to earn P56.53 billion from the 24 percent SMC shareholding.

"The determination that the conversion was advantageous to the national government on a purely financial standpoint has, in the light of subsequent events, proven to be mistaken," the PCGG audit report said.

The complaint said the previous PCGG leadership committed gross abuse of discretion when it approved the conversion.

PEACE IN OUR TIME
A billboard showing MILF chair Murad Ebrahim and Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Ardo, commander of the 6th Infantry Division-Camp Aguinaldo, Maguindanao, stands along a road in the area of Sitio Kotkot in Maguindanao. The Philippine government and the MILF will sign next week a peace agreement that, it is hoped, will bring peace to Mindanao and end 15 years of negotiations. (JOAN NOVENARIO)

MILF deal signing turns int'l with top leader-guests

From page A1

international support that is crucial, the MILF says it enjoyed.

And giving it a helping hand is the administration of Pres. Benigno Aquino.

Dignitaries

A minister of local and foreign dignitaries will witness the signing of the framework agreement for the creation of Bangsamoro.

Besides two heads of state, President Aquino and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, the powerful Organization of Islamic Cooperation, for merly Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), will also witness the signing of the 13-page agreement approved in principle by the government and the MILF negotiating panels in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

The presence of OIC secretary general Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu at the signing will give a middle of legitimacy to the peace accord from the Islamic world, where the MNLF, which has observer status in the OIC, is recognized.

With a membership spread over four continents, the OIC is the second largest intergovernmental organization in the world after the United Nations.

OIC greeting

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Ihsanoglu congratulated the Aquino administration and the MILF "for reaching a framework agreement to end the long-standing conflict in Mindanao."

Ihsanoglu will attend the signing of the framework agreement, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told the Inquirer yesterday.

Lacierda said Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos Deles spoke with Ihsanoglu on the sidelines of the second Session of Network Council Assembly in New York and brought him up to date on the progress of the peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Ihsanoglu's chief, head of the MILF negotiating panel, and Murad Ebrahim, the chief peace negotiator, will sign the agreement.

MILF chief Ebrahim Murad, leaders of the MILF and high-ranking Malaysian officials will also witness the signing.

Malaysia initiated the peace talks between the government and the MILF that began in 2001.

Foreign monitors

Officials of countries that have been monitoring the peace process would also attend the signing of the agreement.

"The International Contact Group (ICG), the International Monitoring Team have also been invited, some old organizations, the OIC is invited, country representatives, who are also involved in the peace process, were also invited," Lacierda said.

Members of the Cabinet, particularly the security and legal clusters, will be invited to the signing of the agreement.

President Aquino called the preliminary agreement with the MILF a road map to the achievement of lasting peace in Mindanao.

Lawyers, for his part, called it a "political document" that would serve as a blueprint for the establishment of an autonomous region in Muslim Mindanao, to be called Bangsamoro.

Laying peace

Bangsamoro will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which President Aquino described as a "failed experiment."

In the OIC statement, Ihsanoglu said he hoped the agreement would "pave the way for a just and lasting peace for the Bangsamoro people who have suffered too long and endured huge sacrifices."

"The OIC received the news with both hope and cautious optimism, hoping that it will constitute a solid foundation for to sweep agreement that serve the legitimate aspirations of the Bangsamoro people. The OIC hopes that this will usher in a new phase of consolidating peace and elicit the long-awaited development projects of the region," Ihsanoglu said.

The Bangsamoro settlement process has been conceived not only to end the Moro insurgency but also do justice for people who have suffered injustice during the 40-year war.

LEGWORK: The Philippine peace minister will be a special guest.

Meralco service at work.

It takes regular maintenance and constant upgrading of our power distribution facilities to assure the delivery of reliable electricity.

In this regard, some power interruptions in the following areas are unavoidable.

Please be assured that we are working as efficiently and as quickly to ensure causing the least inconvenience.

SUNDAY TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 - 15, 2012

PARAÑAQUE CITY AND PASAY CITY

BETWEEN 1:00PM AND 10:00PM (SUN., 10/14/12) AND 1:00AM OF MONDAY (10/15/12)

FEEDER: Line servicing some areas in Barangay Baclaran, Parañaque City (Bilibid, Sol Jacket Subdivision, Pasay City)

MONDAY TO TUESDAY OCTOBER 15 - 16, 2012

MAKATI CITY, MANILA AND PASAY CITY

BETWEEN 9:00PM AND 11:59PM (MON., 10/15/12) AND 1:00AM AND 5:00AM (TUES., 10/16/12)

FEEDER: Line servicing some areas in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City (Gen. Luna, Gen. Malvar, Gen. Lim, Gen. Tinio, Gen. Antonio, Gen. Solano, Gen. Lukban, Gen. Alcantara, Gen. Segundo, Gen. Tuason, Gen. Ramos, Gen. Bautista, Gen. Lacuna, Gen. Ricarte, Gen. Malabanan, Gen. Ordoñez, Gen. Ordoñez Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext., Gen. Ordoñez Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext. Ext.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

2 dead, 2 cops hurt in De Oro bombing

CAGAYAN DE ORO City—Two people were killed and two police officers were wounded in an explosion outside a hotel here that authorities said was caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) and which took place in a city not known for terror attacks in the past.

A second bomb had been found and defused near where the first bomb went off.

Police said the IED, which is known to be a weapon of choice of terrorists, exploded outside the Maxandrew Hotel near the Cogon Market here at 3 a.m. yesterday.

As police were investigating the blast and conducting clearing operations, a second IED was found underneath a vehicle owned by TV network GMA 7 which was parked near the hotel. The second bomb was defused.

The slain victims of the explosion were identified as Rudy Jose, a bar attendant of the resort by Potchie Ian, and Espiritu Globio, 62, a jeepney barker.

The wounded police officers were identified as PO1 Rogelio Cardabona and PO1 Dennis Dano.

Chief Supt. Gerardo Bonoto, city police chief, said prior to the explosion, the management staff of the Maxandrew Hotel had alerted police about the presence of a suspicious package outside the establishment.

Cardabona and Dano were part of the police team that was sent to check on the package.

LOOKING like a war zone, the site of a bomb explosion in Cagayan de Oro City is secured by police. Authorities refused to call the bombing an act of terror although improvised explosive devices, a weapon known to be used by terror groups, were used. AP PHOTO/GIOVANNI TORRES

Jose, the bar attendant, got curious and went out of the Maxandrew Hotel to see what the fuss was about after a police cordon started to surround the area. It was when the bomb exploded.

Mayor Vicente Emano, who went to the site of the explosion, quickly declared that the bombing was not the work of terrorists, though he couldn't explain the use of IEDs.

"No terrorist will leave a bomb at 2 a.m. in an area where there are no people," Emano said.

But Emano did not elaborate on his thesis, adding that he will wait for the results of the police investigation.

A ranking police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to discuss the matter with reporters, said he agreed with Emano's observation that the bomb attack was not terror-related.

"It's a small IED, probably with 1kg to 2kg of the explosive material," said the source. "Terror groups, he said, use more or more."

Chief Supt. Gil Hicaro, Northern Mindanao police chief, said there had been no threats in the city prior to the bombing.

Hicaro said police are still uncertain about the identity of the bombers or bombers but a SIM card found in the area and believed to have been used to remotely detonate the bomb could provide clues.

Lt. Col. Eugenio Osias IV, the regional Army spokesperson, said the Army is working closely with police in the investigation.

Rosales said police suspect that a single set of suspects is responsible for the two bombs.

He said CCTV footage taken near the area showed that at least three men are involved in the attack. *Report by Evelyn Macabinlar, Jil Arevalo and Bobby Lagsa, Inquirer Mindanao*

Grenade blast in Zambo seen 1st case of poll violence

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A man and a child were wounded in a grenade explosion here on Wednesday which police said could be one of the earliest cases of election violence since the filing of candidacies for barangay on Oct. 5.

The grenade, said a police source who asked to be quoted anonymously for not having authority to discuss the case, said the attack was apparently aimed at a Yolo politician.

The grenade was thrown at the direction of the politician's vehicle, said the source.

In a report released by the Directorate for Integrated Police Operations (Dipo) in Western Mindanao, police said the explosion took place near the junction of Camino and Bolton Street past 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Col. Ramonercito Pascual, head of an antiterror unit of soldiers and policemen called Task Force Zamboanga, said two men had been held and are being investigated in connection with the grenade attack. Their identities had been withheld.

The explosion wounded Rudel Sederiza, 28, and Peter Canyon, 12, who just happened to be near the site of the attack.

The police source, quoting witnesses, said one of two suspects hurled a grenade at the pickup truck owned by Firdaus Mohammad, mayor of Yocon, Yolo, that was parked in the area. It was not immediately known if Mohammad was in the vehicle during the grenade attack.

Mohammad became mayor of the town after the Commission on Elections canceled the previous mayor, Ahmad Tarac, and declared Mohammad the real winner of the 2010 elections in the town.

The grenade attack last Wednesday, if confirmed to be aimed at Mohammad, would be the second on the female mayor. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Fishkill hits 2 Dagupan villages, but losses called 'slight'

DAGUPAN CITY—Thousands of bangus (milkfish) were belly up here on Thursday after a fishkill hit two areas in this resort city.

But city agriculturist Emma Mollina described the fishkill as "slight" as pond owners immediately harvested the fish upon seeing their bangus gasping for air and swimming near the pond's surface.

Mollina said at least 13,000 bangus floated in a two-hectare pond owned by Manoy Soy in Barangay Tambac while 50,000 bangus perished in a three-hectare pond owned by Lucas Ballesteros in Barangay Lasip.

In Barangay Tambac, Mollina said, the dissolved oxygen (which fish need to survive in the water) was only 0.33 parts per thousand (ppt). In Barangay Lasip, the level was 1.1 ppt, she said.

A pond should have at least 2 ppt of dissolved oxygen for fish to survive, she said.

This was the first fishkill reported here after Mayor Benjamin Lim cleared the city's rivers of fish pens and other fishing structures in 2011.

In May 2002, bangus growers suffered from the city's worst fishkill when at least 19.8 million worth of milkfish were belly up in six villages.

Mollina said the pond owner in Barangay Lasip was stocked, reducing the level of dissolved oxygen in his pond. *Gabriel Cardenas, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Kenneth, 'victim of people'

By Carlene Auxilia
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A dog so mangled that part of its snout hung under its jaw when it was found had been operated on and is now recovering, its case serving as an example of man's capacity for brutality and kindness and how animals are often at the receiving end of those.

Here known as "Kenneth," the dog was found last Sept. 29 wandering the streets of Talisay City by a policeman operator, Janjan Sidoy.

When he was found, Kenneth was so disfigured that it was difficult to discern the bone he lacked like.

Janjan took the dog and gave him the name Kenneth after the Lebanese word kenth-an, meaning brutal.

Veterinarian who rescued Kenneth said his most vital bone been dashed by a sharp object. As the vicar Judas found Kenneth, according to an assessment made by veterinarian, the dog had been wandering for more than two weeks with the untreated wound.

The plight of Kenneth attracted online attention after Janjan's nephew, Michael, took pictures of the dog and posted them in his Facebook account last Oct. 8.

The pictures soon only generated outrage among animal welfare activists, but also led to a campaign initiated by two groups—the Cebu Animal Dog Club Inc. (CEDCI) and the Island Rescue Organization (IRO)—to raise funds for Kenneth's treatment.

The campaign led to surgery for Kenneth last Oct. 8 at the Animal Wellness Veterinary Hospital on Gov. M. Cuenco Avenue in Banilad, Cebu City.

A team of eight doctors and three veterinary assistants supervised the four-hour surgery on Kenneth's face.

Dr. Ivy Alvarez, of the Animal Wellness Veterinary Hospital, said when the surgery team got hold of Kenneth, the condition of the dog's face was beyond description.

"So despite the emotion that Kenneth inflicted, Alvarez said the dog remained sweet.

"I always cried when I first saw him. But despite what happened to him, he was really sweet," said Alvarez.

KENNETH after surgery

Alvarez said the eight-hour surgery team was able to reunite the pieces of Kenneth's nose, palate, and skin that had been apparently hardened off but one completely that they clung to Kenneth's face.

Dr. Lois Guillermo Dalitio, who headed the surgery team, said Kenneth would recover in less than two weeks.

"He will eat normally and live normally," said Dalitio. "We assure you that nothing significant will change in the dog's life," he said.

The two groups that named Kenneth and Dalitio—are demanding that the person who abused Kenneth be made to answer for the brutality. "Kenneth is an example of a victim of people," said William Burgos, head of CEDCI.

LP solon won't back P-Noy candidate

NAGA CITY—A Liberal Party (LP) stalwart of the fifth district of Camarines Sur refused to throw his support to an LP candidate who would be running against Ivo Villafuerte for the governor's seat.

Rep. Salvio Fortuna said yesterday he would not support former Solicitor General Antonio Joel Cadiz, who had decided to run for governor after switching his candidacy in favor of lawyer Ifeth Leanor "Lani" Bordado, widow of the late Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo.

Fortuna said he had promised to support Nicolas "Nick" Perez (NP) candidate Miguel Villafuerte, grandson of Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte Sr. who filed his certificate of candidacy also for governor.

Fortuna lamented Cadiz's sudden decision to run for governor. Jesús Iraneo Bordador Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Enrile memoir: Tripoli Agreement was a sellout

By Cathy C. Yamsuan

SENATE President Juan Ponce Enrile described the Tripoli Agreement that resulted from a "secret" meeting between Nur Misuari and Libyan President Muammar Gadhafi in November 1976 as an "unprincipled and unjustifiable sellout" of Philippine sovereignty to the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

In his new memoir, Enrile, who served as defense minister during the last two years of ferdinand Marcos, said he had been shut out of the Manila-Gadhafi negotiations. When he insisted about it later, he stated in his memoir, he was appeased by "constant flattery."

But Marcos, he said, had insisted him not to talk to reporters about it.

Quiet trip

Enrile said he was not informed of Imelda's "quiet trip" to Tripoli although she had brought along the same undersecretary Carmelo Barbero, a former congressman.

"Unknown to the Department of National Defense, that trip of the First Lady led to a secret agreement in Tripoli between... the Philippines and the MNLF," Enrile said.

Barbero, as chief negotiator for the Philippines, signed the agreement along with the MNLF's Misuari and 15 others. A host of witnesses included representatives from Libya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Somalia.

In that time, Mindanao was crippled by hostilities between the MNLF and the military.

The agreement called for "the establishment of autonomy in Southern Philippines," a "legislative assembly (that) shall be constituted through direct election" and an "executive council formed through appointments by the legislative assembly."

Such autonomy would give Muslims the right to have their own administrative system and set up their own courts that implement Sharia laws.

The Tripoli Agreement also gave Misuari the following:

- The right to be represented in all courts including the Supreme Court;
- The right to set up schools, colleges and universities;
- Their own economic and financial system;
- Representation and participation in the central government and in all organs of the state; and
- The right to organize their own special regional security forces in the South.

Enrile said the Tripoli Agreement could left "competence in foreign policy," "matters concerning defense affairs" and "competence over mines and mineral resources" to the central government.

Still, competent new states and internal structures had to be mutually agreed upon between the autonomous Muslim government and the central government.

The agreement also provided other "points left for discussion," including the integration of MNLF forces in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

It also called for a ceasefire to be declared upon the signing of the Tripoli Agreement "but not later" than Jan. 28, 1977.

Enrile said he only learned of Imelda and Barbero's (illegal) secret mission to negotiate all military operations in the troubled areas of Mindanao from Oct. 24, 1976 to Jan. 26, 1977.

It was Barbero's executive assistant, Bienvenido Edmundo Santos, who had to tell Enrile that his boss went to Libya and negotiated an agreement with the MNLF to effect a peaceful resolution of the Mindanao conflict.

Barbero eventually gave Enrile a copy of the Tripoli Agreement.

"After I went over (it), I was full of anger and frustration. To me, the Tripoli Agreement was not only an illegal and unconstitutional act, but also a shameless and abject surrender to the (MNLF)," Enrile said.

Act of perfidy

"It was an unmitigated and unpardonable sellout. It offered a very high price for peace in Mindanao. It was, worse, an act of perfidy and betrayal against the fallen and unsung soldiers of the country who had bravely died their blood and intellectual best to defend, protect and preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country," he added.

Objections, reservations

Enrile told Marcos of his "objections and reservations," prompting the President to ask him not to talk to the press.

Marcos also vowed to convene the National Security Council (NSC) where Enrile could voice his concerns.

But before the NSC would meet, Marcos called Christian local leaders in Mindanao to the Palace "ostensibly, to discuss the casualties in the conflict-ridden areas of Mindanao," Enrile said.

"But actually, as I was told later, the President went out of his way and laboriously explained in detail the provisions of the Tripoli Agreement to the rallies and vowed provisions and purposes which are worthy here in Mindanao," he added.

"To me, the Tripoli Agreement was not only an illegal and unconstitutional act, but also a shameless and abject surrender to the MNLF"

Marcos especially reserved the NSC, where members included all members of the Cabinet, officers of the AFP and some private individuals named by the President, on Feb. 4, 1977.

Enrile explained during the meeting that the Tripoli Agreement violated the 1973 Constitution, specifically a provision that said: "The territorial and political subdivisions of the Philippines or the provinces, cities, municipalities and barrios."

Regions of the country could not be considered "political subdivisions" and therefore could not have individual and separate governments of their own with specific powers over the people, he said.

"They were merely organized for administrative purposes to attain efficiency in the administration of public affairs," the defense minister explained.

Enrile added that the "autonomy" contemplated in the Tripoli Agreement was not simply a region of the country. It was actually considered as a territorial and political subdivision"—something not authorized by the Constitution—with a separate and distinct government of its own."

The defense secretary said the agreement's "autonomy" would endorse the Philippines' border with Borneo in the south and would carve from the east, Davao del Sur down to Sarangani, including the Sulu Sea "plus a big chunk of southwestern Mindanao all the way to Misamis."

The region, under the agreement, would have its own boundary, its own population of Muslims, Christians and tribes from minority denominations, and its own separate government.

Enrile recounted Marcos' reaction. Indeed, the region "could at any time soon (be) link and separate itself as an independent republic or kingdom from the Republic of the Philippines, or join the federated Republic of Malaysia."

This would bring "catastrophic violence in Mindanao and possibly the entire country" instead of "peace and prosperity as envisioned, he added.

Imelda silent

Enrile noted that while he talked, Imelda was "silent and visibly chagrined" and sometimes moved her head from side to side "with obvious displeasure to what I was saying."

It was only "effective Ferdinand Marcos and local Government Secretary Jose Rono who supported Enrile's position among those present.

Marcos then turned to an aide and called Gadhafi. He called for another meeting in Libya, the other with Enrile present.

Enrile recalled that he, Imelda and Mendoza later went to Gadhafi's compound in Libya for the second round of talks.

After Enrile clarified his position on the Tripoli Agreement, Gadhafi answered: "Mr. Secretary, we are not interested about constitutions here! We are talking about real Constitutions do not matter and operate during a state of war! The Moros are Muslims in your country. Surrender your arms to them."

Enrile kept his mouth shut. Imelda continued to chat with Gadhafi until they left the compound.

Enrile said Imelda later approached him to point out that Gadhafi "was not pleased with me and that I had to get out of Libya the following morning."

Enrile said a group that included Maj. Gen. Fidel Ramos of the Philippine Constabulary flew to Basilan early the next morning and waited there for several days for Imelda before the entire party flew back to Manila.

Marcos angered

Upon their return, according to Enrile, they learned that relations between the government and the MNLF were worse.

The MNLF called for outright separation from the rest of the country and its leaders demanded the creation of a separate independent state for Muslims through a presidential decree.

This angered Marcos and ordered the arrest of the leaders of persons spreading the idea of a separate Muslim state.

Enrile said that eventually Marcos summoned Gadhafi to agree to submit the Tripoli Agreement to a plebiscite where voters from the 13 provinces supposedly included in the autonomy participate.

Only the provinces, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Norte, South Cotabato, Davao del Sur, Cotabato, Basilan and Palawan.

Marcos wanted was "autonomous region in Region 9 including Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and Basilan with Zamboanga City as capital, and another in Region 12 for Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur with Cotabato City as capital.

The MNLF denounced the referendum as unconstitutional organs as a violation of the Tripoli Agreement.

Its leaders filed a protest with the Organization of Islamic Conference, which included "the MNLF problem" in the agenda of the meeting in Tripoli on May 12-16, 1977.

The DOTC is inviting interested parties to participate in the OPEN and TRANSPARENT bidding for the P143 MILLION DOTC TOILET FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

DOTC

INVITATION TO BID

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Bidding Documents are available for purchase from the DOTC Conference Room 1606 Flying Tee Executive Tower, Diosdado Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Subic military base buildup vital to DND, US

From page A1

Ordaneta said the Philippines, which has a mutual defense treaty with the United States, can point elsewhere between US and Philippine exercises, and the reason is simply where the DND plans to build a base that is spokesperson for the department says is vital to the country's security program.

AFP modernization

"The Armed Forces [of the Philippines] is modernizing in a very aggressive [way]," Peter Paul Galvez, DND spokesperson, told the Inquirer by phone on Wednesday.

"In a few months, we are embarking in procurement and we intend to use those areas in Subic for our air platforms and naval assets," Galvez said.

"We have a big interest in the area," he said, referring to the 200-hectare airport complex in the Subic freeport, a former US naval base at the boundary between Zambales and Bataan provinces.

Officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) have announced that the agency wants to convert the idle Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA) into a terminal and commercial hub, the Seaport Island in Singapore.

Part of modernization

But SBMA Chair Roberto Garcia later said the plan would not proceed because the DND wanted to use the airport as a military base.

The DND, Galvez said, has asked Congress to approve P75 billion for the modernization of the military in five years.

Part of the modernization program is a plan that calls for the Philippine Air Force (PAF) to use SBIA at Cubi Point and the adjacent seaport, Galvez said.

The US Navy built the airport during the former War in the 1950s. It left Subic in November 1991, two months after the Philippine Senate rejected the extension of the 1947 Philippine-US military bases agreement.

The Philippine government, through the SBMA, converted Subic Bay's special economic zone and free port.

Galvez said discussions with the SBMA had not yet reached no issues.

"These are really needed, really perfect. These are very ideal. It is cheaper to locate [in Subic] than replicate [the facilities] elsewhere," Galvez said.

"Subic can handle large aircraft. It has a deepsea," he added.

SBMA understands

Asked if the SBMA trained the DND plan, Galvez replied, "They understand."

"Having a military base in Subic is good for everyone down. It will support economic growth," he said. "It is strategic for all. We are already looking at the overall development."

Galvez said the military had resumed Air Force units on the free port in Clark, Pampanga province.

The Air Force units at the 5th Infantry Air Force City in Clark are the First Air Division, 400th Air Base Wing, Air Logistics Command, Air Force Reserve Command, 710th Special Operations Wing and 630th Maintenance Wing.

In exchange for the lease, the Air Force helps secure the international airport and aviation areas in the free port at Clark.

Galvez said he had no information yet on which units would move to Subic. There is no timetable yet for the construction of the military base there, he added.

Not aimed at China

Aware of the potential impressionism of the plan, Galvez said the base was not part of efforts to beef up the capability of the Philippines to defend itself from aggression in asserting its territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea.

China's insistence that it owns the entire sea has led to a face-off between Philippine and Chinese ships at Panatag Shoal. Diplomatic efforts to resolve the standoff, which began in April, have yet to make headway.

But the plan is to build a military base in Subic, Galvez said, has been existing since the 1990s. "It got stalled for lack of funding," he said.

"Our country needed strategic sites to monitor [our] coast and land, and these sites have traditionally been military bases," he said.

The development of the new military base does not include engaging the US military for its use or even for shared use, he said.

Should troops from the United States or Australia use the Air Force facilities in Subic, this would be covered by the Visiting Forces Agreement, which Galvez stressed, he said.

The DOTC is inviting interested parties to participate in the **OPEN** and **TRANSPARENT** bidding process for the P101 MILLION CAMINAWIT PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND the P22 MILLION ILOILO CITY AND ROXAS CITY PCG STATION PROJECTS.

DOTC

INVITATION TO BID

P101 M CAMINAWIT PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND P22 M PCG STATIONS IN ROXAS AND ILOILO CITIES

1 CAMINAWIT PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Approved Budget for the Contract	: Php 101,025,837.16
Issuance of Bid Documents	: 12 October 2012 - 5 November 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	: 19 October 2012, 3:00 PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	: 5 November 2012, 1:00 PM
Cost of Bid Documents	: Php 10,000.00

2 ROXAS CITY PCG STATION PROJECT, CAPIZ

Approved Budget for the Contract	: Php 11,471,115.73
Issuance of Bid Documents	: 12 October 2012 - 5 November 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	: 19 October 2012, 2:30 PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	: 5 November 2012, 9:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	: Php 10,000.00

3 ILOILO CITY PCG STATION PROJECT, ILOILO

Approved Budget for the Contract	: Php 10,178,999.36
Issuance of Bid Documents	: 12 October 2012 - 6 November 2012
Date and Time of Pre-Bid Conference	: 19 October 2012, 2:30 PM
Date and Time of Deadline of Submission and Opening of Bids	: 6 November 2012, 9:00 AM
Cost of Bid Documents	: Php 20,000.00

- Interested bidders may obtain the Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable amount indicated above only to the DOTC Cashier. They may also inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain additional information from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Flr., Park Road, Ninoy Aquino International Airport Complex, Pasay City, or may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at **http://www.philgeps.gov.ph** and from the bidder's own website, if any. Bidders must also pay for the Bidding Documents and take note that the submission of Bid Bulk.
- Bidding is open to all interested bidders, subject to the conditions for eligibility provided in the Bid Documents and the Bidding Documents.
- The Bid and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on the date and time indicated above in the DOTC Conference Room, 10th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Mandaluyong City, which shall be open to all interested bidders.
- The Committee reserves the right, subject to pertinent laws and regulations, to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein, or accept the bid most advantageous to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

For further information, please refer to:

Ann Jo. Villacorta-Jocson (Secretariat)
Contact Nos.: **(632) 725-7351 loc. 3 Columbia Tower Apt. Block, Ortigas Ave.**
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Telefax: (632) 725-7351 loc. 3
Cellular No.: 0920-9178-7539
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Website: **www.dotc.gov.ph**

Posting from **30 March 2012** at the **PhilGEPS** and **DOTC Website & Bulletin Board**, and published in the **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, **Philippine Star** and the **Manila Bulletin** on **31 March 2012**.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Request for Expression of Interest for Feasibility and Master Plan Study

CATARMAN AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Catarman, the largest town in Northern Samar province, continues to experience rapid growth, especially in tourism and investments. It is poised to become a center of commercial and financial expansion and one of the provinces in Eastern Visayas as the Gateway to Leyte.

Catarman has a Principal Class 2 (aip) airport facility with a 1,500m x 30m runway. However, the Catarman airport is unlit and is to accommodate only the present commercial aircraft operations. The current location of Catarman Airport in Barangay Dalakit has limited capacity for expansion.

The preparation of a feasibility study should determine the optimum development potential of the existing Catarman Airport, identify the possible relocations and most suitable for future requirements, and recommend the best option to implement the master plan for the Catarman Airport Development Project.

1. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through the 17th, 2011 Transport Sector Fund, intends to apply the cost of Seven Billion Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (Php 7,380,600.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the project covered in Feasibility and Master plan study for the Catarman Airport Development Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

2. The DOTC now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for the Catarman Airport Development Project. Study. Interested consultants must acquire the eligibility documents consisting of Two (Two) Pesos (Php 2.00) and submit their eligibility documents on or before 10:00 a.m. 2012, 1.30 Minutes (DOTC, Ninoy Aquino Int'l. 10th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on the documents submitted / stated.

3. The BAC will base on the shortlisted consultants from those who have submitted statements of interest and eligibility documents and have been determined to eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR). The shortlisted shall consist of five (5) prospective bidders who will be entitled to submit bids. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

a. Applicable Experience of the Firm – 30%
b. Qualification of personnel proposed to be assigned to the job as evidenced by curriculum vitae – 40%
c. Current workload relative to capacity – 30%

4. Should the firms they received to the copy for eligibility and shortlisting using the eligibility check, and at para the method as received in the Bidding Documents, the BAC shall consider the rating of the applicants most within a minimum weighted score of 75 POINTS TO POINTS to qualify for shortlisting.

- Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
- The Bid Documents shall be available only during the Bidding Cost Bond Guaranteed Letter from 12:00 NOON (in pesos only). The DOTC shall refund the cash bond to the bidders not recommended for award of contract. The bidder recommended for award of contract shall forfeit its cash bond in favor of the Government if it fails to enter into contract in the completion of time and its performance bond.
- The bidder's bid shall be considered valid for 120 calendar days from the date of submission of Proposal.
- The DOTC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to the bidding, waive any formality therein, or accept the bid most advantageous to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

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Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Batman writer, girlfriend sued by Pinay ex-beauty queen

DARK SAGA Former actress and Ms. Philippines-Universe (1992) Ethel Gallardo sues "The Dark Knight Returns" writer Frank Miller and girlfriend Kimberly Cox.

From page A1

girlfriend, Kimberly Cox, rumored her work area with lewd, destroyed her printer with a hammer, threw photos at her and even left a used feminine hygiene pad by her desk.

"Nobody should [have to work under these conditions," Gallardo's lawyer, high-powered employment attorney Matthew Hill, told the Post.

The suit said Gallardo went to work for Miller—who's 1986 blockbuster comic series "The Dark Knight Returns" is considered revolutionary—as an executive coordinator in November 2008.

Cox, Miller's much younger actress girlfriend, soon made it clear she had issues with Gallardo, yelling things like, "I can't understand your freaky accent. I don't speak English," according to the suit.

Cox yesterday said she was "shocked" by the suit "because she was offered a very fancy settlement and declined."

In July 2010, Cox allegedly threw a phone and chair at Gallardo—until "cornered her mean lover" on a crossroads in her work area in the Bell-Airbase living/work space that Miller and Cox shared, the suit said.

A year later, Cox went on another rampage, smearing all of Gallardo's files across the floor and destroying her printer "with a hammer," the suit added.

Then, Cox reportedly left her filthy underwear and "used menstrual pad" in her work space.

The Post said Gallardo was seeking unspecified money damages from Miller and Cox for discrimination and "mental anguish."

Gringo, Chiz rally behind Ako Bicol lawmakers

From page A1

electoral record of Ako Bicol, it represents an unrepresented sector ... whether marginalized or not Ako Bicol. Ako we-guesstimating the mindset of the Bicolnisme that put these party-list representatives [in Congress]?" Romualdez told the Inquirer.

"I'm not questioning the judgment call of the Comelec. I'm just saying that it should be driven by some modicum of sentimentality," he added.

Ako Bicol topped the 2010 election with more than 1.3 million votes, 1.1 million of which came from the Bicol provinces. Ako Bicol has three representatives in the House—Rodel Batocabe, Christopher Co and Alfredo Garbin Jr.

"I am disappointed with the decision. But I'm sure that Ako Bicol will appeal the decision of the Comelec. I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will issue a favorable ruling [for Ako Bicol]," Batocabe said in a text message.

Asked why Pimentel should further be represented by a party-list group when they already have their district congressmen in the House, Escudero said, "Why not. Ako An Mineap?"

Escudero pointed out the case of An Waray, the party-list group that represents the Pinatay of Eastern Samar. It is now represented in Congress by Representatives Florencio Noel and Niel Benedict Abayon.

"You can say the same for every other group that wants the present representation more forcibly. How many are party-list groups camouflaging under various names actually representing other groups, business groups that are within the sector? Ako Bicol is not a party-list of the congressmen already representing the Bicolano districts.

Aside from Hontanosas and Escudero of Sorsogon, the other senator who has roots in the Bicol region is Aklan Antoni Cayetano's Jun Tan.

In a decision to disqualify Ako Bicol, the Comelec said Ako Bicolanon never already well represented in Congress.

"If the opposition were to follow Ako Bicol's reasoning [on] participation in the party-list system, this commission is condoning the continued and blatant violation of the proportional representation of provinces, cities and Metropolitan Manila in the composition of members of their inhabitants, and on the basis of a uniform and progressive ratio," the Comelec said.

Strict interpretation

In an interview, Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said yesterday that the decision to drop Ako Bicol was based on the "strict interpretation" of the party-list system.

Brillantes said what happened during the previous election, which accredited Ako Bicol, was not the concern of his commission.

"We don't want to go back to the past," he said. "We are trying to implement in the best possible way the party-list law."

Reacting to Ako Bicol's move to contest in the Supreme Court the Comelec decision, Brillantes said: "We are not saying that we are perfect but we have done our best. It's up to the Supreme Court," said Brillantes.

Barzaga in a news forum yesterday asserted that if the Comelec could ensure the biggest vote-getting party-list group with fewer representatives in Congress could be under threat as well.

"There's nothing that if we can disqualify the number one party-list group, we can disqualify any of you," Barzaga said.

Nothing to fear

Cllmr. Rep. Sherwin Tugna said the part-body's decision did not necessarily endanger the status of other party-list groups.

"My point is, there is nothing to fear because each party-list group's qualifications—the qualifications will be decided according to their background and factual circumstances," Tugna said in a text message, adding that each decision on a party-list group will be based on evidence and due party-list law.

In the case of Ako Bicol, he noted that the Comelec had ruled that since it was a regional political party in Bicol, it duplicated the work of geographical lawmakers.

Tugna also said that with the Comelec's latest ruling, the poll body was "being realistic and mature" when it comes to defending the marginalized sectors and advocates.

Bagong Henerasyon Rep. Bernadito Ilanera (9), in the same forum, said she was encouraging Ako Bicol to contest the Comelec ruling in the Supreme Court.

"In this point, you don't leave who will qualify to run in the 2013 elections. All you can do is stand by the fact that you are serving and representing sectors, and you are serving well to governance and using public funds properly for the benefit of the entire peoplepresent," she said.

Double-standard

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares said party-list lawmakers should recognize the need to reform the system to weed out the rich and powerful from the representation of the truly marginalized.

Colmenares noted the Comelec by its "double standard" in implementing its rules on who were eligible to represent party-list groups.

"If we were disqualified based on our financial status and as a lawyer, from some the Comelec just proclaimed a party-list nominee Mely Garbellano who comes from the Garbellano clan of Alay Bahay. It seems there's a double-standard here on the application of rules," Garbin said in a phone interview.

Without all party-list groups will be affected, even Neri Colmenares who is also a lawyer may be disqualified if we will follow the grounds relied upon by the Comelec," Garbin said.

Aside from the double standard, Garbin also questioned the "flip-flopping" of four Comelec commissioners who upheld Ako Bicol's eligibility twice in the previous election only to consider it ineligible in 2013.

"That track record and the no-show of Commissioner Lucenito Tagle to sign the decision [on Ako Bicol] is disheartened the work of geographical lawmakers.

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Online workers in slippers new BPO face

From page A1

Ethel functioning job, she's earned enough money to buy land for a house mostly and make downpayments on a condo in Manila Manila.

"I have double the work but, it doesn't bother me because it doesn't feel like work," she says.

Half a million Pinoys

Overseas is one of more than half a million Filipinos registered on freelancer web. site oDesk.com—more than the number of people currently employed by the country's growing business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

Proponents of so-called *crowdsourcing* contend that a swelling army of global freelancers is already disrupting traditional outsourcing—from preparing tax documents to conducting research on patients' cases.

"This is all about cost arbitration across borders," says firm Chris Rath, a Singapore-based researcher who works with the World Bank. "Therefore, tax rates are your work is cheapest in the world."

Low-hanging fruit

Driving this trend are a dozen Web start-ups that let workers small and medium-sized companies save projects into e-books and then resell individuals or teams of freelancers to do the work.

By leveraging a faster, more efficient and cheaper Internet, the start-ups can pluck the low-hanging fruit of IT and data-entry outsourcing that big BPO players such as Infosys and Wipro once considered their own.

Australian CEO Matt Barrie of Weblogtas, for example, has paid out $40 million to some 160,000 graphic designers, with its largest user base outside the United States being in Indonesia.

Elance has 260,000 freelancers in India who have earned nearly $156 million, while oDesk has 2.4 million registered freelancers and more than 400,000 others—companies including Cisco and IBM.

"This is moving the entire BPO industry—that was dominated by these large multibillion organizations that take most of the profits—to the cloud," says Ahmad Ghazali, 29, start-up turned-entrepreneur.

"Now you no longer need to be able to afford billion rates to be able to get quality results out of an outsourcing system."

For sure, the BPO industry is not necessarily quaking in its boots. The industry was worth $150 billion last year and is growing at 1-6 percent a year, according to Pradeep Bhaskar, an Indian IT consultant and adviser to the World Bank.

Uphill struggle

Crowdsourcing companies admit it's still an uphill struggle to persuade firms to experiment with outsourcing work to freelancers rather than keeping it in-house or sticking with established BPO players.

For freelancers, many face a precarious career—not always getting paid for work completed, going without health care insurance and job-related retirement but always being available.

Indeed, many freelancers who have signed up with oDesk have never received feedback from clients—suggesting they have either not tried to pitch for work or haven't won any yet.

"It's true to say that it's hard to get that first contract," says Dimon Ipeirotis, an associate professor at New York University who studies oDesk data.

2nd wave of innovations

Such initiatives are feeding a second wave of innovations in the industry. The first outsourcers focused on what oDesk.com CEO Gary Swart calls the eBay model—using recommendations, feedback and trust to create a market where companies find good freelancers and freelancers can build a reputation.

But as freelancers build clout, or subcontingent with clients, both sides prefer a more structured model where trusted freelancers hire new workers by prompting oDesk and effectively outsource to access modern them.

Genesys, for example, uses apps several other oDesk to workers on behalf of long-term clients.

In the case, couple of years, other start-ups have tried to mend weak links in the chain.

A potential employer posting a project on Elance or oDesk, for example, can be overwhelmed by applications—making it difficult for them to find the best freelancers quickly, and harder for freelancers to stand out from the crowd.

Enlancer hopes to solve this problem by having the start-up Mobile Works team members to promote quality, and by breaking down projects into tasks to fit the skilled workers onto their free time.

Tasks range from transcribing hedge fund forms to generating sales leads.

NOBODY Pacific from the world of registered cubicles and baseline seeing call center operators to quiet, revolution where work-at-home contractors are disrupting traditional outsourcing. An online freelancer does her work over in her family visit lands (above) and while her children play (at left).

Higher earnings

Once they're proficient at micro-tasks, Ballarini says, "they would be let loose to sites like oDesk or Freelancer.com" where they can earn higher fees.

Ostensibly unskilled labor per pay. She started out charging $1.50 an hour—the same she was earning as a librarian—but is now billing $8.50 an hour.

Her experience is far from unique. The average contractor on oDesk, the company says, has seen monthly income grow 14% percent after three years.

Nearly all crowdsourcing companies make their money by charging a fee to contractors for each successful transaction.

All the crowdsourcing evangelists declined to share detailed earnings, but oDesk, with claiming to be the biggest online workplace, said that its contractors earned about $75 million in the first quarter of 2012, against $40 million a year ago.

Growth is from Asia

While crowdsourcing is global—Elance boasts clients in 180 countries and Freelancers in 133—much of the growth is coming from Asia.

Indeed, for example, Jack in Wholesale.com, where several of its workers on behalf of long-term clients.

Recently, Jessica gathered in the Javanese city of Yogyakarta to thank Weblogtas in a video. The first time the company's Australian president and CEO Patrick Llewellyn, heard about it was when it was posted online. "I was moved to tears," he said.

Such growth is prompting crowdsourcing companies to set up operations nearer to where the action is.

Tadeus, a boutique outsourcing company, and Freelancer.com, for example, have both based their Asian operations in the Philippines.

Some are going further afield. On a trip to Bogor, Canadian Mark Seary came to many engineers and MBAs acting like that he pays a business opportunity and moved his family to Kathmandu.

Now CloudFactory trains locals to complete microtasks on behalf of clients including the tagging of training videos of amateur hockey games. His latest recruit is Mohamad Jamsen, an English-speaking Facebook addict who collects trash outside their offices.

Fighting poverty

Indeed, companies like CloudFactory and Mobile-Works say they are not not only to turn a profit but also to battle poverty.

"World Bank adviser Mobileye says this so-called "impact sourcing" already employs 160,000 workers, and could account for nearly a quarter of the total BPO workforce by the end of the decade.

Governments and organizations such as the World Bank are taking note of the potential for an industry that generates foreign exchange but requires very little capital investment.

Bangladesh was one of the first countries to declare online earnings tax-free, for example, and Mobile Works has recently signed an agreement with the government of Indonesia to employ the service on a national scale.

All companies stress they're out to make money by mobilizing what Ajay Mitra, of Wilf Carey School of Business at Arizona State University, calls a means of "makes entrepreneurs."

Orlando puts it more simply: "My want to be an independent, modern Filipino family." Reuters

Recto betrayed us, says BIR chief

From page A1

billion. The foregone revenue could go to universal health care, such as more hospitals, free health cards, and heritage health insurance," she said.

She said she shared the disappointment of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Health Secretary Enrique Ona as well as the antismoking groups.

Senators and administration officials had last supported the finance to improve on the House version of the bill that proscribed an increase of P70 billion.

She stressed that it should be regarded as a "health measure," rejecting Recto's explanation that he could not propose hefty taxes on tobacco, beer and other alcoholic drinks because this would discourage people from buying these and thus, would mean less revenues.

SHARED DISAPPOINTMENT From left, Cesar Purisima, Ken Hesaven and Enrique Ona

For universal health coverage

While the governmental collects P45 billion from tobacco taxes, it spends P144 billion to treat the four major ailments caused by smoking. Then the government will be saving P144 billion."

But the revenues will go to universal health coverage and the upgrade of government hospitals and other facilities, she said.

Asked to comment on reports of a strong tobacco industry lobby against the measure, she said latest in accordance with law she said he is followed. "What we are trying to take care of is the health and the right of the many."

Justice Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs Zabedin Angelo Ungab, in a press conference, "We will need assistance from all concerned, those who believe in a reform for the benefit of the country. We have to work together in country to see measures that we really need to adopt that."

In an interview with reporters on Wednesday, Recto said that the original agreement "an equilibrium" and its final form and drops was up to the colleagues.

"There will always be those who will oppose. There are those who want to raise the tax. There are those who want to bring it down. What we came up with is in the middle. In economics, it's called equilibrium. We're neither to the left nor to the right."

Unitary tax system

The Philippines already has one of the lowest prices of cigarettes and alcohol in Southeast Asia, Santiago said. "When cigarettes and liquor are cheap, more people will use them.... That's why for every liter, 61 Filipinos die from tobacco use. Smoking causes 200 deaths every single day," she said.

Santiago said the tax on tobacco should be 70 percent of the price of the product according to an international convention on tobacco control. This is why her bill imposes a tax of P30 per pack of cigarettes by 2013, she said.

"My bill improves it unitary tax system, as recommended by the World Health Organization. The Recto bill uses a three-tier tax rate for tobacco and alcohol products, making them cheaper and thereby encouraging their use," Santiago said.

Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who finished the tobacco-producing Ilocos region, supports the bill.

"The increase in taxation is no longer so burdensome," Marcos told reporters. "Producers on the tobacco side are happy because at least Senator Recto understands the complicated issue of taxation."

Viable investment hub

In a speech at the 28th Philippine Business Conference and Expo at the Manila Hotel, President Aquino called on lawmakers to craft a tax bill that would generate more revenue to give the public more access to health services.

To make the country a viable investment destination, the President said the government was investing not only in infrastructure but in human capital, by granting conditional cash transfers to the poor and expanding the coverage of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. program.

"We are also counting on the solidarity of our legislators in the tax reform, which can only improve our fiscal situation. With the bulk of tax revenues generated from this proposed measure going to universal healthcare, our call for tax reform is not to, and improve health services for all," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda declined to say if Malacañang was displeased by the Recto bill.

Health issue

"We will leave it with Senator Recto. He has already laid out that the reasons why we are pushing for our tax reforms. We have already laid out that the health issues that the revenues that we're going to collect will be able to fund sufficiently our universal health care coverage as well as the various health centers that we proposed," he said.

Lacierda said there were "salary cuts" that would address the concerns of the bureaucrats.

The Bicolano Senator Chel Diokno was also more perceptive. Lawyer pointed to the exemptions of other Southeast Asian countries where companies still enjoyed high revenues despite high government taxes.

"For instance in Singapore, even if the tax rates are high, they still enjoyed high revenues," he said.

Who's afraid of Enrile?

From page A1

out there but no one seems interested in actually moving in coalition. One reason for this, longtime Senate observers say, is that Enrile currently enjoys a high popularity rating, based on recent surveys.

Speculating that he can oust out the same allies President Aquino formed a private dinner in Malacañang on Tuesday for senators who helped oust Chief Justice Renato Corona on impeachment trial in May.

Sen. senator said Enrile could rely on only three Senators — Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Majority Leader Vicente Sotto and Sen. Joseph Estrada — to cast their lot with him, at least for now. The four are collectively known as the Senate's "macho bloc."

The senator whom the request talked with requested anonymity because he did not want to be seen as interested in the job.

The senator said assuming that Enrile and his supporters could be easily outnumbered was enough to inspire interest.

'It's anomalous'

"It's just natural, a case of seeing Enrile up there feeling is now where he only has three followers. Why is that? It's anomalous," the senator said.

Many of a Senate coup remain skeptical among the chamber's employees. A common sentiment is that Senate workers like Enrile because he's generous with year-end bonuses for them.

Enrile has maintained he would welcome a replacement any time and that he has no plans to cling to his post.

Senators Ralph Recto and Franklin Drilon of the Liberal Party and Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party have been touted as possible successors.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV recently admitted one thing for Enrile's candor after a bitter public spat not with him over the Aquino-Philippine Daily Inquirer dispute between the Philippines and China.

Counting the numbers

All the senators had on Monday as the coup rumors flew, the lawmaker added Trillanes if Senate was, really, a move to oust Enrile. Trillanes only smiled and said, "I don't know."

The senator said anyone interested in becoming Senate President could tap the remaining nine senators and Trillanes by Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, his sister Sen. Pia Cayetano and independent Sen. Jinkie Arroyo.

Trillanes can also be counted on for support, as well as the Nacionalista bloc of Villar, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Minority Defensor-Santiago.

"That's already a solid seven, a formidable group," the senator said, adding that Sen. Tommy "Tito" Sotto Jr., president of Lakas party, could also be convinced.

Like children, sometimes

"And the senators from the Liberal Party — Kiko Pangilinan, Recto, Drilon and Chiz Escudero — they're not the ones interested in actually moving in coalition. One reason for this, longtime Senate observers say, is that Enrile currently enjoys a high popularity rating, based on recent surveys.

Speculating that he can oust out the same allies President Aquino formed a private dinner in Malacañang on Tuesday for senators who helped oust Chief Justice Renato Corona on impeachment trial in May.

Sen. senator said Enrile could rely on only three Senators — Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, Majority Leader Vicente Sotto and Sen. Joseph Estrada — to cast their lot with him, at least for now. The four are collectively known as the Senate's "macho bloc."

The senator whom the request talked with requested anonymity because he did not want to be seen as interested in the job.

The senator said assuming that Enrile and his supporters could be easily outnumbered was enough to inspire interest.

'It's anomalous'

"It's just natural, a case of seeing Enrile up there feeling is now where he only has three followers. Why is that? It's anomalous," the senator said.

Many of a Senate coup remain skeptical among the chamber's employees. A common sentiment is that Senate workers like Enrile because he's generous with year-end bonuses for them.

Enrile has maintained he would welcome a replacement any time and that he has no plans to cling to his post.

Senators Ralph Recto and Franklin Drilon of the Liberal Party and Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party have been touted as possible successors.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV recently admitted one thing for Enrile's candor after a bitter public spat not with him over the Aquino-Philippine Daily Inquirer dispute between the Philippines and China.

Counting the numbers

All the senators had on Monday as the coup rumors flew, the lawmaker added Trillanes if Senate was, really, a move to oust Enrile. Trillanes only smiled and said, "I don't know."

The senator said anyone interested in becoming Senate President could tap the remaining nine senators and Trillanes by Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, his sister Sen. Pia Cayetano and independent Sen. Jinkie Arroyo.

Trillanes can also be counted on for support, as well as the Nacionalista bloc of Villar, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Minority Defensor-Santiago.

"That's already a solid seven, a formidable group," the senator said, adding that Sen. Tommy "Tito" Sotto Jr., president of Lakas party, could also be convinced.

Like children, sometimes

"And the senators from the Liberal Party — Kiko Pangilinan, Recto, Drilon and Chiz

Visible investment hub

In a speech at the 28th Philippine Business Conference and Expo at the Manila Hotel, President Aquino called on lawmakers to craft a tax bill that would generate more revenue to give the public more access to health services.

To make the country a viable investment destination, the President said the government was investing not only in infrastructure but in human capital, by granting conditional cash transfers to the poor and expanding the coverage of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. program.

"We are also counting on the solidarity of our legislators in the tax reform bill, which can only improve our fiscal situation. With the bulk of tax revenues generated from this proposed measure going to universal healthcare, our call for tax reform is not to, and improve health services for all," he said.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda declined to say if Malacañang was displeased by the Recto bill.

Health issue

"We will leave it with Senator Recto. He has already laid out that the reasons why we are pushing for our tax reforms. We have already laid out that that is a health issues that the revenues that we're going to collect will be able to fund sufficiently our universal health care coverage as well as the various health centers that we proposed," he said.

Lacierda said there were "salary cuts" that would address the concerns of the bureaucrats.

The Bicolano Senator Chel Diokno was also more perceptive. Lawyer pointed to the exemptions of other Southeast Asian countries where companies still enjoyed high revenues despite high government taxes.

"For instance in Singapore, even if the tax rates are high, they still enjoyed high revenues," he said.

Sensible option

Marcos said the problem is that taxes are taken [for the position of Senate President]." Besides, it is only Trillanes who has openly admitted he is working for Enrile's ouster, he said.

Marcos said reporter the possibility of Enrile's ouster was remote. "I don't think there is a plot under way—Maybe I'm out of the loop," he said.

Marcos added it would be more "sensible" to replace Enrile in the next Congress after the 2013 midterm elections.

His Senate politics

Senator's supposedly promising coup [Enrile—who only remains in the good graces of Mr. Aquino—skipped Senate politics to buy time to consolidate him.

Eighteen senators were present at the dinner, including all the possible contenders for Senate President—Franklin Drilon, Edgardo Angara, Villar and Estrada. Except for Pangilinan, the other three have previously served as Senate leaders.

"It was a long-delayed thank you dinner initiated by Malacañang between the President and the 23 senators who voted to favor of conviction in the impeachment trial," Pangilinan said via the phone. "It was simply dinner and small talk."

No singing

There was music, Pangilinan quipped, "but no singing among senators."

Asked about the significance of the President dining with the senators, Pangilinan said this ground that "both Malacañang and the Senate are committed to working together to ensure the President's reform agenda is given the legislative support needed for it to be realized."

Trillanes was also at the dinner.

"If it had anything to do with only coup, why would you have invited [Enrile and Trillanes in the same dinner?" Pangilinan said.

"Only One was absent because of his birthday," Pangilinan said, referring to Executive Sec. Jejomar "Jojo" Binay. He also could not explain why was not in the dinner Senate.

The dinner lasted beyond 10 p.m. "And a few stayed behind," Pangilinan said. — With a report from Michael Lim Ubac

Nur calls gov't offer of seats to MNLF an insult

ZAMBOANGA — (DTL—Moro leader Nur Misuari on Thursday said the government's offer to the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) of seats on the Transition Commission for the creation of Bangsamoro was an insult.

"It is an insult not just to me but to also to the entire Bangsamoro, who believe in the MNLF and uphold the 1976 Tripoli Agreement and other agreements, especially the 1996 peace agreement," Misuari said.

The Transition Commission will draft the basic law for the creation of Bangsamoro, which will replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) once headed by Misuari.

The commission will submit the draft basic law to Congress for legislation and then to a plebiscite for approval of the people of Mindanao.

Besides the MNLF, indigenous groups in Mindanao will also be given seats on the Transition Commission, according to Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles.

Tripoli accord

On Wednesday, Misuari said the framework agreement for the creation of Bangsamoro violated the essence of the 1996 peace deal and the Tripoli Agreement.

He also said the agreement that would be signed on October would never solve the Mindanao problem but instead plunge the region into conflict.

He said the MILF was "still chasing the wind."

On Thursday, he flatly rejected the government's offer to the MNLF of participation in the formation of Bangsamoro.

For Misuari, the MNLF is the representative of the Bangsamoro people and their aspiration for self-determination. Still,

He did not say what the MNLF would do should the framework agreement proceed and work for the establishment of Bangsamoro begins.

No threats to deal

In Davao City, government peace panel member Jesus Dureza told reporters on Thursday that the government did not consider the MNLF or the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) of Ameril Umbra Kato (Kato) to be peace spoilers with the MILF.

"We always look at opportunities, at possible areas of convergence," Dureza said, referring to Misuari's threat.

Dureza also said the MNLF was never left out in the peace talks with the MILF, contrary to what Misuari was trying to picture.

"In fact, a major focus of the MNLF was to be involved in the talks and its development since the very start," he said, citing about 120 government-initiated consultations with various sectors, including representatives of the MNLF.

In the case of Kato's group, Dureza said the government always considered the BIFF a "law-enforcement" matter.

Dureza said the same treatment applies to the Abu Sayyaf, the al-Qaeda-linked bandit group responsible for kidnappings and killings of foreigners in the South.

Just the start

He said the framework agreement was just the start of a long process aimed at ending the crisis in Mindanao.

"Hopefully, by 2016, we can accomplish a substantial part of the agreement," Dureza said.

Reports from Julie Alipala, Inquirer Visayas Concrete and Ayee Macaraya, Inquirer Mindanao

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DID YOU KNOW

PORMER Sen. Teofisto Guingona, the first senator who topped the bar examinations in the country, was admitted to the Roll of Attorneys on Oct. 12, 1928. A Liberal Arts graduate from the University of the Philippines, she also topped the civil service examination for lawyers in 1927.
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Another 'Alabang Boy' acquitted

PDEA agent's 'vague answers' doomed prosecution, says QC judge

By Joannamie I. Andrade

A QUEZON City court yesterday acquitted the last jailed member of the so-called "Alabang Boys" trio mainly because of the "vague answers" given by an official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) concerning the circumstances of their arrest in 2008.

Judge Elvira Pangandaman of Quezon City Regional Trial Court—Branch 227 ordered the release of Joseph Yeroan from the Metro Manila District Jail, four years after he and two others were arrested and charged with drug trafficking.

The charges against the two others arrested—Richard Bendoy and Jorge Joseph—were dismissed by the Muntinlupa Regional Trial Court in August 2011.

And like in Yeroan's case, the earlier acquittals cited a "glaring blunder" on the part of PDEA in its handling of the evidence.

In her decision, Pangandaman said PDEA officer Jose Tomalinal's testimony pertaining to the drugs allegedly seized from the accused "raised the prosecution's case to its cross" instead of strengthening it.

"Tomalinal, the law prosecution witness, presented in the court a certified copy of the spot report on Yeroan's arrest on Sept. 20, 2008, a document which he claimed to have prepared himself.

But the court noticed that the affiant could not identify in the document the very items allegedly seized from Yeroan in a buy-bust operation conducted by PDEA agents at the Amante Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

Pangandaman said this appears on the part of Tomalinal led the court to the conclusion that there were no drugs confiscated from Yeroan, who was arrested on two charges, possession of shabu and sale of marijuana.

Tomalinal was interrogated following the arrest of Yeroan and Joseph in the posh Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

The PDEA operation was led by Maj. Ferdinand Rhoderick.

The agency said some 50 heavily armed soldiers, several packets of marijuana and sachets of cocaine were seized from the suspects.

But the judge said, "To its shock and surprise, the court discovered that the supposed items or pieces of evidence confiscated during the operation against Yeroan are not included in the spot report."

"The spot report only pertained to the items allegedly recovered from the so-called Alabang Boys," she added.

Pangandaman said the logical conclusion that could be drawn was that "no drug items may have been in fact confiscated from accused Yeroan."

"Ergo, the prosecution utterly failed to establish that the pieces of evidence presented in court are the very same pieces of evidence recovered from the accused. The integrity of the corpus delicti has been compromised. With such serious lapses and infirmities committed, there is no other recourse but for this court to order the acquittal of accused-in-both cases."

ALL THEN NOW Richard Bendoy, Joseph Yeroan and Jorge Joseph in a photo taken in 2009, a year after their arrest. INQUIRER PHOTO

'Phantom' guy loses bag, not humor

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MANY victims would not have found the experience funny, but Jordan Dennis Pollard did.

An understandably fan "The Phantom of the Opera," the longest running Broadway musical now playing at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Pollard was one of the more recent victims of the notorious "Subi Gang," whose modus operandi is to distract their potential victims while stealing their valuables.

Pollard, 22, an Australian national who is also part of the play's musical ensemble, appeared at the Manila Police District General Assignment Section at noon yesterday to report that his Prada bag was stolen on Sept. 30 while he was in a restaurant near the CCP Complex.

The actor, the understudy for the role of Raoul in the musical, reported the robbery two weeks after it happened only after viewing the security video, Lou Isaval Ramos, not eager or forced as a result of the experience, said SPO2 John Cayetano.

Pollard was at the Harbor View strip around 6:15 p.m. when four robbers took his bag which was placed under the table.

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Drunk driver held for overtaking P-Noy convoy

Cops in Pasig, QC lose post for being 'slow'

PERFORMANCE judged by the minute.

Two police officers in Pasig and Quezon City have been relieved of their posts for being too slow to respond or alert their respective operating centers commissioned in their respective areas.

The disciplinary actions stemmed from the same directives earlier issued by National Capital Region Police Office director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina for Metro Manila police units to shape up or be sacked.

NPOM Regional Conche, commander of the Barangay Unang Sigaw precinct in Quezon City, was cited for his failure to act immediately on a violent robbery just midnight of Oct. 7 in the Bahayang area, which sent a woman to the hospital.

Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Mario de la Rosa said Concha was relieved because of his "slow response" in connection with the robbery and mauling of Stephanie Fernando, 29, by suspect Erwin Salinas.

Salinas was arrested with the help of bystanders and village watchmen after he allegedly took some P7,000 in cash from a bakery where Fernando, a resident, worked as an attendant.

Salinas punched Fernando in the face and hit her with a piece of wood after the woman held on to his shirt in an attempt to stop him from fleeing with his loot.

In Pasig City, PO2 Bob Burgos Jr. facing administrative sanctions also for failure to immediately relay a complaint from a cat theft victim.

Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Miguel Laurel said Burgos would be asked to explain why he failed to immediately alert the EDP's Tactical Operations Center about the complaint of Gerry Ferreras, owner of a Toyota Vios (GWW-648) which was reportedly stolen early Wednesday.

Ferreras said unidentified men forcibly took the vehicle from him on Meralco Avenue around 3:30 a.m.

Laurel said dragnet operations would have been launched within minutes by the EPD-TOC had it been informed by Burgos. Instead, the young officer took a longer route and simply "reported" his motor case to the Pasig City police station the next day.

"Ang ito ang sabi sa kanya sa aming pulisiyonan. If somebody asks for your help, do what you can to help," Laurel said. Julie M. Aurelio and Dexter Allen Montgomery

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THREE months after a policeman based himself in his native Davao City to avoid being arrested for blocking President Aquino's convoy in Quezon City, a drunk motorist was arrested for trying to overtake the vehicles carrying Mr. Aquino in Manila last Wednesday.

The police report said Noel Jason Hutaspel suddenly swerved out of the line of vehicles which were stopped in order the presidential convoy to pass, swerved all the cities to Sofitel and stopped right behind the President's car."

Hutaspel, 26, a medical sales representative from San Isidro, Davao del Sur City, was driving a Kia Rio (ZBN-760) when he encountered the traffic on the southbound lane of Nagtahan Bridge near Malacañang around 11:20 p.m. The President had just left the Palace after watching Ian's re-elected a dinner.

Hutaspel's car was immediately blocked by Presidential Security Group vehicles after the motorist cleared the bridge.

Supt. Luis Francisco Jr., commander of the Manila Police District's Southeast station, said the motorist failed an alcohol breath test and would be charged with reckless driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, and obstructing traffic.

Francisco, however, noted that "Hutaspel did not pose a threat to the President," based on an initial investigation.

Speaking to reporters, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said: "At no time was the safety of the President in danger but by (Hutaspel) was driving recklessly."

In July 6002 Ricardo Pascua of the Quezon City Police District was arrested after he tried to cut in front of Mr. Aquino's vehicle with his van. He was later dismissed from the service.

The President, in a show of modesty and solidarity with Manila motorists who have to endure horrendous traffic, previously ordered his presidential convoys not to use sirens to make other vehicles to move out of the way. With a report from AFP

A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM A young girl enjoys the company of "saintly phenomenon" El Cubrito for religious images on Sanitar Road, Quezon City. (PHOTO BY ERWIN MASCARIÑAS)

QC judge: Arrest 'road bully'

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IT'S OFF from over for Robert Ethel Cardenuma, the motorist who was caught on video bullying a traffic aide two months ago.

A Quezon City judge yesterday ordered the arrest of Cardenuma, a business executive executive of Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corp., in connection with the direct assault charge filed by Sacramento Salvan, a traffic constable of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Judge Aida Calleja of the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court - Branch 42 set bail at P12,000.

Cardenuma was caught on a phone video berating and slapping Salvan on Aug. 17, after the latter flagged him and his brother-benjamin down for a traffic violation.

The short clip, which was taken by a TV5 researcher, quickly went viral and made Cardenuma the target of cyberspace jeering for weeks.

He later issued a public apology to Salvan and the MMDA, but the charge was still filed with the full backing of MMDA lawyers.

Benjamin Cardenuma, who also got off the car when his brother confronted Salvan, was also charged by Salvan with direct assault but was later cleared by the city prosecutor.

'Phantom' . . .

From page A01

Inside the bag were an iPad, a bottle of hair straightener, a bottle of moisturizer and various other items, the report said.

Guevarra said the footage on the security video pointed to two women and two men as the robbery suspects.

One of the male suspects, the police official said, was a cripple.

The policeman said the video showed that the cripple who was seated closest to Pollard "used his leg to get the bag."

Pollard said he did not immediately file a complaint because he wanted to view the security video of the last of the incident first before going to the police station.

Guevarra said Pollard also cracked jokes, while he was in the police station.

"He showed us measures won't be the case in the manner which were on his cell phone while he was at the station, so we insisted did he show that he was fired," he added.

Pollard said that he just wanted to report the crime to serve as a warning to others who are not careful about securing their possessions, Guevarra said.

UP-PGH emergency medicine course

THE DEPARTMENT of Emergency Medicine of the University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital will be having its 12th Annual Postgraduate Course with the theme "Till Out of the City" on Oct. 15-19 at Pan Pacific Hotel Manila. Topics include ED Triage, Toxicology, ENT Emergencies, Occupational Injuries, Challenges in Emergency Transport, Quality Management in the ER, Emergency Humanitarian Action, Spine and Head Trauma Emergencies, among others. For inquiries and registration, contact (02)568-8400 loc. 2508/2509 residents or 2508 fellows or (+63)9209449158. Also visit the facebook events page "Emergency Medicine Out of the City" or email at pghemergencymedicine@gmail.com. Registration rates are as follows: for physicians, P2,500; nurses/EMTs/BHWs/Midwives/AEDs, P1,750; and students, P1,000.

Congratulations!

Rosita L. Navarro, Ph.D.

2012 Juran Medal Awardee

DR. ROSITA L. NAVARRO receives the 2012 JURAN MEDAL, a prestigious award granted by the Philippine Society for Quality Inc. (PSQI), recognizing her achievements in promoting quality concepts and ideals and as role model in the field of Education.

Dr. Navarro will be honored at the 24th National Quality Forum of the Society on October 12, 2012, at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel.

The Juran Medal is awarded to a senior executive of companies, the academe, or labor organization for the executive's outstanding contribution in the field of quality management in the Philippines. The Award honors Dr. Joseph Juran who revolutionized the practice of quality. He established the Juran Foundation to make his contributions as well as those of others available in the field to serve society.

Dr. Navarro is chairman of the Philippine Association of College and University Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA), researcher past president of Centro Escolar University, and consultant on Quality Assurance and Total Quality Management (TQM) of St. Jude College of Manila and Cavite.

The former Rosita Lozano, the first set foot in Centro Escolar University over five decades ago as a young high school student. She did not leave CEU until her retirement in 2006.

Rosita graduated at the top of her high school class at CEU-Paranaque. She surprised well-meaning relatives and friends when she said that she wanted to take up teaching. They would have wanted her to take up medicine, law or accounting.

She started her education course at CEU, majoring in English and minoring in Mathematics. Aware of the worrying regard for the teaching profession, she resolved that she would try her best to be a good teacher to be a credit to the teaching profession.

Graduating summa cum laude, she started as a high school teacher of English and Mathematics, and continued on to college and graduate school teaching even as she was University President.

CEU is the first university to develop a tertiary laddered program for special youth and adults, enabling those deserving among them to be mainstreamed in higher education under CEU's SPED higher education inclusion program. Thus, Dr. Navarro was privileged to have Special Education students in her undergraduate classes.

In 2000, she received the Outstanding Professional Teacher Award conferred on her by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

While serving as president of the Philippine Association for Teacher Education (PAFTE), she had the rare opportunity of participating in the carving of Republic Act 7836, the law that elevated teaching to a profession, and the setting up of the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) as a requirement.

To help in the groundwork for the implementation of LET, she served in the PRC ad hoc committee that paved the way for the initial LET implementation.

As sixth president of Centro Escolar University, Dr. Navarro was happy to continue what the former president, Dr. Lourdes T. Echaus, started. As board chairman, Dr. Echaus fully supported Dr. Navarro's proposals.

Thus, in 2002, Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS) granted CEU the ISO 9001:2000 certificate and in 2011, the Commission on Higher Education conferred on CEU the Full Autonomy Award.

In 2005, 11 more programs received Level III accredited status from the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA), which brought to 15 the total Level III programs of the University. In 2006, CEU received the Philippine Quality Award, the Philippine equivalent of the Malcolm Baldridge Quality Award of the United States.

Throughout her CEU years, and even beyond, Dr. Navarro has lived by the University's core principle of Claveria y Virtud- a firm conviction that the best Education is Education that upholds Science and Virtue.

Dr. Rosita Navarro has long learned that core principle and such principle she has imparted to her students and has well upheld in every work she has done for Philippine Education.

A Tribute by the Centro Escolar University Alumni Foundation Inc.

Obama slams shooting of Pakistan girl activist

PESHAWAR, Pakistan—United States President Barack Obama decried the "disgusting" shooting of a teenaged Pakistani activist by the Taliban as local authorities announced a reward of more than $100,000 for the gunmen.

United Nations (UN)-chief Ban Ki-moon also expressed horror at the attack on Malala Yousufzai, 14, who is in intensive care after she was shot in the head on a school bus on Tuesday, an assassination attempt that has appalled Pakistan.

It took place in Mingora, the main town of the Swat valley in Pakistan's northwest, where Malala had campaigned for the right to go to school during years the Taliban insurgency which he now said it had crushed in 2009.

On Wednesday doctors successfully performed a three-hour operation to remove a bullet lodged near her shoulder, where it moved after entering her head, in a military hospital in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

Preparations were made to fly her abroad, but a military source told AFP she was currently too ill to travel. Wahid Omar spokesman for Gerret said US forces were ready to offer transport and treatment to the teenaged if needed.

Obama hollowed the shooting was "reprehensible and disgusting and tragic", Carney said.

"Targeting violence at children is barbaric. It's cowardly, and even hearts go out to her and the others who were wounded as well as their families."

Malala was international recognition for highlighting Taliban atrocities in Swat with a blog for the BBC three years ago, when the Islamist militants banned girls' schools and terrorised the valley before the army intervened.

MALALA

Her struggle resonated with tens of thousands of girls denied an education by Islamist militants across northwest Pakistan, where the government has been fighting local Taliban since 2007.

Ban's spokesman said the UN chief was "deeply moved" by Malala's campaign for education rights and called for the perpetrators of this heinous and cowardly act to be swiftly brought to justice".

The provincial government announced a 10 million rupee ($104,000) reward for information leading to the capture of Malala's attackers.

The attack has drawn condemnation around the world and highlighted the enduring presence of Taliban sanctuaries in the remote Swat valley, which Pakistan's government has been trying to contain on a multi-decade basis.

Schoolchildren across the country on Wednesday offered prayers for Malala's recovery, but the Pakistan Taliban have boasted a statement saying they say female who oppress them should be killed.

Malala's uncle Ismail Ramzan, citing her doctors, said she was stable after the lengthy operation to remove the bullet. AFP

Biden's mission: Fire up Democrats to blunt Romney's debate gains

By Nico Silver

WHEN Vice President Joe Biden takes the debate stage in Danville, Kentucky, on Thursday night, 15 min today in Manila) he will undoubtedly not be able to erase all of Mitt Romney's gains in the polls after his debate performance in Denver last week, gains that appear to have furthered President Barack Obama's post-convention bounce.

For the first time since Aug. 28, the PewThirtyEight model projects Obama in win fewer than 300 electoral votes. But Biden may be able to do something about the ensuing gap in enthusiasm between Democrats and Republican voters. That gap might be the greatest threat to Obama's reducing another term in the White House, and it seems to have widened since the Denver debate.

Republican turnout has run out at higher rates than Democrats, in part because they tend to be older, whiter and have other characteristics that correlate with voting on a regular basis. But the enthusiasm gap is usually small in presidential election years, when about 75 percent of registered voters turn out. In the presidential election of 2008, 79 percent of likely voters have typically been 1 or 2 points more Republican, leaning than those of registered voters. (The polls of likely voters are also less slightly more accurate predictors of the actual election day result.)

The voter, the gap has been wider than usual. Across a variety of polls, it averaged about 3 points in favor of Romney before the parties' conventions. It appeared to tighten slightly, to more like 2 percentage points, and after three gatherings. But since the Denver debate, some polling shows the electorate an unprecedentedly large split between registered and likely voters.

Gallup, which began publishing likely voter polls Tuesday, found the split to be 8 points in Romney's favor. That was enough to put him ahead by 5 points among likely voters in the Tuesday polls—even though he trailed Obama by 3 points among registered voters.

Pew Research, which previously had shown very little difference between registered and likely voters, found a 4-point difference in their pre-debate poll—enough to account for all of the lead they found for Romney.

If all registered voters turned out (much less the broader population of all adults) rules are eligible), Obama would be a clear favorite. But some of them will not show up in the polls, and the difference could easily be large enough to allow Romney to win.

It is probably too late for Biden and Obama to do anything about the high level of Republican enthusiasm. Since the Denver debate, Republicans are feeling better about Romney's candidacy—and they were already fired up about the opportunity to oust Obama.

But Obama and Biden may be able to reduce Democratic apathy to the void. Although some of the Democratic gloominess is registered voters comes from groups like Hispanics and young voters who are always difficult to get to the polls, Obama's debate performance may also have turned off other types of Democrats who can usually be counted upon.

In particular, according to research by the Democratic pollster Stan Greenberg, Obama's performance was viewed poorly by unmarried women, who wanted a more combative tone and a sharper critique of Romney's views about the middle class. Unmarried women are a crucial constituency for Obama in 2008, voting for him, 70 to 29 percent, over John McCain.

The reminder Biden should have no trouble maintaining a fiery demeanor—as he did in his convention speech in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he gave an offensive defense of Obama's record. Biden may also have relatively little to lose by being a cheerleader for Obama, even if that is not the most appealing strategy for undecided voters, most of whom disapprove of Obama's performance.

New York Times News Service

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia won't renew pact with US on weapons

MOSCOW—The Russian government said on Wednesday that it would not renew a largely successful 20-year partnership with the United States to safeguard and dismantle nuclear and chemical weapons in the former Soviet Union when the program expires next spring, a potentially grave setback for improving relations between the two on Cold War arsenals. The Kremlin's refusal to renew the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program would put an end to a multibillion-dollar effort, financed largely by US taxpayers, that is widely credited with removing plutonium weapons from the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus, dismantling more than 1,000 strategic nuclear warheads, and eliminating huge stockpiles of nuclear missiles and chemical weapons, as well as bombers and other equipment and military silos. Both supported environmental weapons. Russian officials, meanwhile, noted that their country's financial situation is far improved from the days after the collapse of the Soviet Union, making the relatively little that Russia gains from its continued collaboration (the Nunn-Lugar agreement) not politically more frustrating and unpervasive. The foreign ministry, in a statement, noted that Russia has increased its budget allocation "in the field of disarmament."

New York Times News Service

Toyota recalls 7.4 million cars because of a fire risk

TOYOTA announced on Wednesday that it was recalling 7.4 million vehicles worldwide, including 2.5 million in the United States, to repair power-window switches that can leak short and pose a fire risk. The recall, the company's largest for a single part, could set back its efforts to recover from previous safety issues and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan last year. The recalled models in the U.S. are the 2007 to 2009 Camry, Camry Hybrid, Tundra pickup and RAV4; the 2007 and 2008 Yaris; the 2008 and 2009 Highlander and Highlander Hybrid; and the 2008 Corolla and Matrix compacts.

New York Times News Service

Moscow court frees member of protest band

MOSCOW—An appellate court in Moscow on Wednesday ordered one of three jailed members of a punk protest band but upheld the two-year prison sentences of the other members, ensuring split decision in a case that has drawn international condemnation of Russia over the suppression of dissent. The ruling, by a three-judge panel of Moscow City Court, upheld the guilty verdict against all three women on charges of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred, stemming from a "punk prayer" performance in the city's main cathedral on February 21 that angered the Russian Orthodox Church and many of the country's faithful. The judges, however, ordered the immediate release of one of the women, Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 22, exempting an opponent by her two lawyer that she had by law of a child. The cathedral-third Pussy Riot members.

New York Times News Service

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The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Casico

Turkey steps up confrontation with Syria

BEIRUT—Turkey sharply escalated its confrontation with Syria on Wednesday, forcing a Syrian passenger plane to land in Ankara on suspicion of carrying military cargo, ordering Turkish civilian airplanes to avoid Syria's airspace and warning of increasingly forceful responses if Syrian artillery gunners keep lobbing shells across the border.

NTV television in Turkey said two Turkish F-16 warplanes had been dispatched to intercept a Syrian Air jetliner, an Airbus A320, with 35 passengers en route from Moscow to Damascus, and had forced it to land at Esenboga Airport in Ankara, the capital, because it might have been carrying a weapons shipment to the Syrian government. Its operation confounded what NTV described as years of cozy trade and relaxed border controls. On plane it remains for 30 hours after arrival hours. The Turkish authorities declined to specify what had been found.

"There are items that are beyond the ones that are legitimate and must not be exported in civilian flights," Turkey's Foreign minister Ahmet Davutoglu said in remarks reported by the state-run semi-official Anatolian News Agency. "These are items that we would view as contraventions."

There was no immediate comment from Syria. Turkish transportation authorities said earlier in the day that all Turkish aircraft should avoid flying over Syrian territory possibly to avoid patrols of retaliatory action by Syria.

The steps taken by Turkey added to already grim impetus to its troubled relationship with Syria, which is nearly 20-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad has evolved into a civil war and threatened to touch off a regional conflict. Turkey is the host for many elements of the anti-Assad insurgency and for roughly 300,000 Syrian refugees, who have been flooding in greater numbers in violence has increased along the 550-mile border in recent days. Several stray roundshave landed on Turkish soil, prompting Turkish gunners to return fire.

News reports Wednesday described intensified fighting close to Aleppo, a Syrian border settlement, with mortar and machine-gun fire clearly audible from the Turkish side. Stranded civilians, some of them in makeshift boats filled with women and children, could be seen crossing the narrow Orontes River, which demarcates parts of the Syrian border with Hatay province in Turkey.

The Turkish chief of staff, Gen. Necdet Ozel, who attended a of the border area Wednesday, was quoted by Turkish news media as saying that military responses to Syrian shellings would be "even stronger" if the shelling persisted.

The sharp tensions between Turkey and Syria are seen as especially troublesome because Turkey is a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which would see an attack on one member as an attack on all, and the implicitly raises the possibility that NATO will be drawn into worldwide Middle East conflict.

On Tuesday, the NATO secretary general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, emphasized that NATO had "all necessary plans in place to protect and defend Turkey if necessary."

The fighting in Syria has reached all other neighbors of Syria as well, with fighting reported recently in villages near a border crossing to Lebanon in the west, while in the east, Syrian artillery have led control of some crossing points on the border with Iraq. Tens of thousands of Syrians have sought refuge in Lebanon and Jordan, straining resources in those countries. Last month several mortar shells fired from Syria landed in the Golan Heights area Israel's northern border.

Skirmishes have been reported between Syrian troops and Jordanian guards along their northern border, and Jordan a warned that the porous frontier could become a conduit for Islamic militants joining the anti-Assad struggle.

On Wednesday the Assad's government rejected a proposal made a day earlier by Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations secretary general, that Assad take the first step to de-fusing an immediate industrial crisis-fire, to be followed by a matching step from his armed opponents. (New York Times News Service)

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

Quezon City is considered the retail capital of the Philippines. But there is one mall in Q.C. that really takes it a notch up by going big. This mall is in fact the biggest shopping mall in the country and the third largest in the world. It's the SM City North EDSA. With a large array of mind-blowing stores, this marvel sits large at the heart of Quezon City. And starting this Friday, SM City North EDSA will be holding its 3-day sale in commemoration of its city's foundation day. Get loads of discounts off of your purchases, because just like Quezon City, being trendy just comes as natural to the people who live in it.

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Lascuña, Que trail by five with 68s

MACAU — Antonio Lascuña, a veteran up in his last start on the Asian Tour, and Angelo Que shot 3-under par 68s yesterday to trail first-round leader Gaganjeet Bhullar of India by five strokes in the $100,000 Venetian Macau Open. Thursday, Lascuña gained three birdies in his mixed of 23-35 while Que clicked with four birdies on the back nine at the Macau Golf and Country Club that took a terrific beating with 46 players breaking par 71. Miguel Tabuena shot a 70, with Jared Alaba carding a 71 and Dante Salvador and Michael Bibat submitting 72s. Frankie Minoza had a 74, Mars Pacia a 73, Antonio Marabanera a 76 and Jay Bayron a 77. **JOSEF TAAT RAMOS**

ATENEO's crack passer Kiefer Ravena draws a foul on the drive from UST's Jeric Fortuna in a crucial stretch of last night's 82nd-2 of the UAAP championship series at Smart Araneta Coliseum. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Make it 'fab' five

Eagles sweep Tigers, clinch 5th straight title

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ATENEO Blue Eagles capped with euphoria a season filled with drama.

Amid a familiar boisterous sea of blue, Ateneo overcame a gritty University of Santo Tomas squad with a 65-62 Game 2 victory yesterday to capture a historic fifth straight UAAP men's basketball championship.

The Ateneo veterans closed in one strong final push as the Tigers fumbled with chance-ruining turnovers in the last 90 seconds and allowed the Blue Eagles to seal a 2-0 sweep of the best-of-three series in front of an electric crowd of 20,106 at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

"It hasn't quite sunk in yet. I don't know when it will, but it's something that I'm really proud of," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "I'm proud of the players, they're the ones who worked really hard."

With their latest conquest, the Blue Eagles earned a spot in league history as the second longest reigning basketball team.

For 63 years, no other team had been this dominant since University of the East strung up a remarkable seven straight championships from 1965 to 1971.

"Big players come in big games," said Black, who called the shots for one last time for the Eagles before heading back to the pro league's sidelines. "But it's also our defense that really sweetens in the game."

Kiefer Ravena pumped in 22 points capped by a jumper that gave the Blue Eagles a 65-59 buffer with 20.4 seconds left.

"UST really gave us a hard time, but we stuck together as a team. We just wanted to win it," said Ravena, who also nailed a dagger shot in the dying moments of Game 1.

Greg Slaughter came through the stretch, burning eight of his 15 points in the final quarter while Juami Tiongson had all of his 10 points in the second half on top of a key steal in the Tigers' final possession.

Finals MVP Nico Salva also chipped in eight points and six rebounds after starting with a career-high 10 points in the Blue Eagles' 93-78 Game 1 triumph last Saturday.

"I think this one is the sweetest," said Salva, who figured in all of the Blue Eagles' five possible wins. "There's nothing like starting your school with a win. I never imagined winning five championships in five years with Ateneo."

One of the season's dramas also came to an end as UST scrub Pido Jarencio hogged Black as the better following their heated word exchange days.

"I just congratulated him and told him it was a good game," said Jarencio. "Whatever that was said, in the end it's just basketball. But I'm proud of my team and thankful to the UST community for their support. It was just the breaks of the game. I has off to coach Ateneo."

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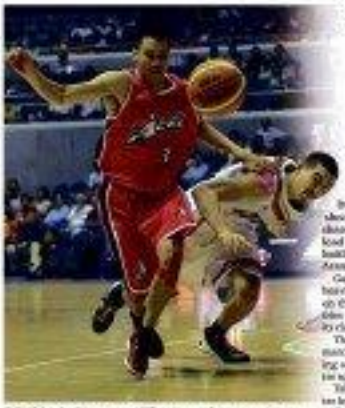
INQUIRER Digital Edition

Texters, E-Painters favored over rivals



CYRUS Baguio of Alaska tries Clifford Hodge of Barako to the boot but during Wednesday's game near its den, 82-80. ALASKA PHOTO

By Musong R. Castillo

DEFENDING champion Talk 'N Text shoots for a second straight win and a share of the early PBA Philippine Cup lead today when the Tropang Texters battle newcomer Globalport at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Game time is 5:15 p.m. with the Texters heavily favored to pin a third straight loss on the Batang Pier, even as Ratiu or Ohno fails to bounce back from a narrow loss in its clash with Air21 or 7 Eleven.

The Texters will be coming into the match fresh from a week's break after backing out a 112-110 overtime decision of action versus Meralco.

Talk 'N Text blew a 20-point fourth quarter lead in that game.

Gary David, last season's scoring champion, has struggled from the field in the first two games for the Batang Pier, who are being led offensively by former two-time MVP Willie Miller.

STANDINGS	W	L
Ginebra	2	0
Air21	1	0
Talk 'N Text	1	0
Alaska	1	0
Barako Bull	1	0
Meralco	1	1
Petron Blaze	1	1
B-Meg	1	1
Rain or Shine	1	1
Globalport	0	1
San Mig Coffee	0	1
GILAS 5, Today (Smart Araneta Coliseum)		
5 PM Rain or Shine vs Air21		
7:30 p.m. Talk 'N Text vs Globalport		
9:45 p.m. Alaska vs Meralco		

Globalport standing pat with last year's lineup except for Glenn Capacio benched former No. 2 pick Rabeh Al-Hussaini in their last game as it flirts with playoff action for tinging with Ginebra in their first game against Ginebra.

The Elasto Painters bowed to the league-leading Barangay Ginebra San Miguel Gin Kings last Sunday in a game where commissioner Chito Salud suspended referee Jun Bandol for a hoax call in the stretch.

The Painters are tipped as the slight favorites against the Express, who broke into the win column with an 88-81 decision of the Batang Pier after six straight losses.

Rain or Shine will still be without Paul Lee and possibly rookie Chris Tiu, who pulled a hamstring in the first half of his first game as a professional last week.

Gabe Norwood will be asked to man the point more often by coach Yeng Guiao for the Painters in the absence of the two rookies with Beau Belga and JR Quiñahan to man the middle for the reigning Governors' Cup champions.

Jeff Chan has been the biggest offensive weapon for Guiao in their first two games, with Norwood his best support.

Chan should be a marked man tonight as the Express hope to derail the Painters for a second straight night.

MVP may enter polls; time for NSAs to speak up—Vargas

By Jane Mansano

THE OLYMPICS darkness sports person, Manny V. Pangilinan, may run for president of the Philippine Olympic Committee if the leaders of the national sports associations (NSAs) want him to.

"Time for the NSAs to speak up if they want change. Otherwise, let the status quo remain" said Ricky Vargas, a top Pangilinan deputy and president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines which the tycoon also chairs.

"Knowing MVP he would be open to lead Philippine sports if asked," added Vargas in a text message to friends and reporters yesterday.

Aurado that the POC presidency is a full-time job, Pangilinan had made an unclaimed deal he was not interested in the position.

But the claims for Pangilinan, who is president of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas, is challenge Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. in the polls on Nov. 30 rescheduled to 9am.

"Sir (MVP) is in the best position to bring Philippine sports to a new level of performance," said Vargas.

With no challengers to Cojuangco in sight, athletes chief Go Teng Kok earlier announced his intention to run against Cojuangco, who is seeking a third four-year mandate as head of the country's Olympic body.

But Go said he is willing to give way to anybody who will challenge Cojuangco, his former ally.

Go, the president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, claims that six NSAs are on his side. Another faction identified with former POC head Celso Dayrit has at least eight votes.

A simple majority from a pool of 42 votes will decide the POC presidency.

Aside from boxing and basketball, the MVP group supports such worlds, cycling, badminton and rowing.

PANGILINAN: "He's a sports lover if asked."

Blue Eagles sweep Tigers, clinch fifth straight title

From page A29

Jett Soriano gained the Tigers with 20 points, the last on a triple with 21 seconds left that gave the Tigers a final cap of Dupe.

Earlier, the Eastern University also bagged a title of their own as the Lady Tamaraws completed a historic season sweep while the Baby Tams clinched their first juniors crown in 25 years.

The Lady Tamaraws dipped past La Salle, 70-66, in Game 2 of the women's Finals to become the first team to complete a 14-0 season since 1996, when the league introduced the Final Four format.

Camille Saavedra (16 points and 16 rebounds) and Allana Lim (13 and 12) delivered double-double efforts to power the Lady Tamaraws to back-to-back titles.

"One at a time, that's what we were thinking," said Finals MVP Joe Borja, who started with 16 points, five rebounds, seven assists, four steals and one block. "We never thought we'd go as far as we did."

The Baby Tamaraws outlasted a pesky National University side in a thrilling triple overtime, 113-109, for a 2-0 juniors series sweep.

Serie Prague and Roger Dominguez teamed up for all of the Baby Tams' 13 points in the third extra period as the Baby Tams dethroned the Bullpups.

Prague, who came in hoping to back up MVP recently figured in every clutch situation before finishing with a game-high 32 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists.

The scores:
Game 2 (Women)
FEU 70 - Saavedra 16, Lim 13, Borja 14, Salenga 12, Ilao 4, Catapang 3, Galanza 2, Gonzales 2, Serrano 0, Bilbao 0, Ong 0, Ramos 0, Ramirez 0, Cabanero 0, Cortez 0, Dela Cruz 0, Bautista 0, Ocampo 0, Cabrera 0, Cuevas 0, Cruz 0, Bernardino 0.
Quarters: 16-15, 32-30, 53-49, 70-66.
La Salle 66 - Perez 20, Espinosa 18, Agustin 11, Delfino 10, Ilao 3, Lumanog 2, Lee 0, Lalongisip 0, Campano 0, Hao 0, Mendoza 0, Ramos 0, Ramirez 0, Cabanero 0, Cortez 0, Dela Cruz 0, Bautista 0, Ocampo 0, Cabrera 0, Cuevas 0, Cruz 0, Bernardino 0.
Quarters: 16-15, 32-30, 53-49, 70-66.
Game 2 (Juniors)
NU 109 - Prague 32, Dominguez 28, Agustin 11, Delfino 10, Ilao 3, Lumanog 2, Lee 0, Lalongisip 0, Campano 0, Hao 0, Mendoza 0, Ramos 0, Ramirez 0, Cabanero 0, Cortez 0, Dela Cruz 0, Bautista 0, Ocampo 0, Cabrera 0, Cuevas 0, Cruz 0, Bernardino 0.
Quarters: 16-15, 32-30, 53-49, 70-66.
Game 2 (Juniors)
NU 109 - Prague 32, Dominguez 28, Agustin 11, Delfino 10, Ilao 3, Lumanog 2, Lee 0, Lalongisip 0, Campano 0, Hao 0, Mendoza 0, Ramos 0, Ramirez 0, Cabanero 0, Cortez 0, Dela Cruz 0, Bautista 0, Ocampo 0, Cabrera 0, Cuevas 0, Cruz 0, Bernardino 0.
Quarters: 16-15, 32-30, 53-49, 70-66.

Vintage Tac tops 3 events

PADILLA: 35 years of excellence

DURABLE national pistol champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla maintained his excellence for the 35th year by winning three more titles recently in the National Open shooting championships at the Marines range in Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The 49-year-old governor of the family-owned Epeng Grading Oil kept his unparalleled record by whipping his rivals in rapid fire, center fire and standard pistol.

"I really prepared hard for the national tournament," said Padilla, who won his first national crown in 1978 when he was barely 15 years old. He has also represented the country 17 times in the Southeast Asian Games. He only admits to the region as his best achievement.

Padilla shot 580 points to beat Robert Ostadero (577) and Reynaldo Hipolito (572) in rapid fire; 546 to topple Ostadero (536) and fellow Asian Games Carolino Gonzales (530) in center fire; and 546 to edge Alejandro Gabriel (539) and Ostadero (537) in standard pistol.

A protégé of Padilla, youthful rifleman Jayson Valdez, shared the spotlight by bringing many more IRA Games champion Enrico Concepcion to the air rifle event.

Valdez tallied 368 to edge Concepcion (363) and Cricket Jude Bellanco (360).

The other gold medalists in the marksmanship competition organized by the Philippine National Shooting Association are Carolino Gonzales in 50m pistol (526), Mona Lovelyn Tan in 10m air rifle (375), Edwin Bernardo in 50m rifle prone (580) and Iona Therese Gutierrez in 50m rifle prone (580).

Azkals face tough Bahrain in friendly

By Cedelf P. Tupas

All the AFF Suzuki Cup dream now, the strength of the opposition in its holiday also you younger for the Philippines.

The Azkals, buoyed by the return of experienced players, host a friendly against Bahrain side in a friendly Friday at the Al Muharraq Stadium in Manama, Bahrain.

The match slated at 6:30 p.m. (12 midnight Saturday in Manila) caps the five-day Azkals' camp hosted by the Bahrain Football Association.

The Azkals, who are grouped with Thailand, Vietnam and the top qualifier in Group A of the Suzuki Cup next month, will fly to Bahrain on Saturday to continue their preparations, before facing the Kinnaris on Oct. 18 for their first meeting since their World Cup Qualifying clash last year.

The Azkals already played Bahrain's Under-23 side twice in their preparation for the World Cup Qualifying match against Kuwait last year, but lost twice without their key players.

Bahrain came within a rain of reaching the 2010 World Cup, losing only to New Zealand in a playoff, and was seeded straight on the third round of the Asian Qualifying stage for their 2014 campaign.

"We're happy that the team is getting the chance to play a quality opponent in Bahrain," said Azkals manager Dan Palami. "The team can only learn from this experience which we hope will come in handy in the Suzuki Cup."

Phil and James Younghusband have been ruled out of the clash because of a scheduling conflict, forcing the Philippine Football Federation to fly them straight to Kuwait on Friday.

Coach Michael Weiss has depth on his side following the return of European-based Paul Mulders, Jerry Lucena, Emelio Caligdong, Roland Muller, Rob Gier, James Ososinski and Ray Jonsson.

American football clinic resumes at BGC Field

THE FIRST session of American Football Fundamental Clinics last Sept. 29 lured a good number of participants, proving that the sport is gaining ground here, according to its organizers.

Held under the supervision of the American Football Federation of the Philippines, the clinics will have three more sessions focusing on different playing units.

Participants will be invited to play in a developmental league that will include seasoned players from the Philippine Panthers.

Clinic schedules at BGC Turf Field of Bonifacio Global City are Oct. 13 (quarterback/running back); Oct. 27 (linebacker/defensive back and Nov. 3 (all positions/kicker).

Registration fee is P500. For inquiries, call coach Tito Benales at 0917.8614157 or log on to afpphilippines@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, the Panthers are preparing for their home game against Saipan Sharks on Nov. 18.

The Panthers have played three games this year, losing to Guam, 33-32, and beating Hong Kong, 43-14, and Beijing, 34-0.

Why does anyone want to be a ref?

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Sev Sarmenta

WHY in the world does anyone want to referee a basketball game?

Ask any referee and the answer is almost too good to be true: I love the game and I want to stay close to the action.

They adore the game so much that they'll endure the boos, curses, brickbats and advices to their integrity and eyesight. There are even comments about their parents who have nothing to do with the way (or lack of it) referees work. Well, the fans aren't the ones to run out of creative things to say and nothing seems to be the sacred cows.

There must be so much love of the game to prompt anyone to officiate basketball.

No matter what referees do, no matter how many sermons they attend, regardless of how much they prepare physically and mentally for their jobs, they will never be appreciated or thanked for a job well done. The only positive point I've heard about referees in three decades of covering basketball is that the refs are doing a good job if you don't notice them.

Because because a basketball ref is within touching distance, it allows coaches to rant about perceived wrong and missed calls. Unlike football where the referee can be half a pitch away or in boxing where the third man in the ring can keep seconds and minors indistinguishable, basketball officials are up-close and personal to coaches, players and spectators.

Perhaps because the competition and the pressure are so intense, whether it's in the collegiate leagues or the professional ranks, women and fans turned a scapegoat, a non-event individual to vent out all their frustrations over lost opportunities and games.

Whether it's for the love of the game or the need to make a living, refs have learned to accept that complaining is part of the match's job. Coaches will look for one edge, any small nuance that can be turned into a "positive" for a team.

Basketball is a game of chances and inches. Every potential measured opportunity is paid or not is lost.

Every win means another chance to stay alive in each.

In all this bedlamlike silence the officiating in the UAAP being unfair is blamed on all unbecoming claims and late part of the competition.

As the NCAA, Final Four unfolds soon, well probably hear the same complaints from some of the coaches. The smart ones know that it's better for us to say a thing while the more vocal ones believe that something must be said so that our egos or lose a fair shake of the calls.

The schools that have teams shouldn't worry too much about the way the coaches are "working the refs" at this crucial stage of the tournament. The numbers just want to win and are not exactly being bad sports. Quite often, their emotions are getting the better of them and are prone to say things they probably wished they never said.

I understand people who want to coach and teach despite all the heartaches of the profession.

But really, who would want to be a ref? Love makes people do such interesting things.

Altas oust Bombers, face Lions in Final 4

LANEZ STANDINGS (2nd Spay Finals)
Fri, 6 — San Beda vs. Perpetual Help (Dec)
6 p.m. — Letran vs. San Sebastian (Dec)

By Cedelf P. Tupas

FETTERS coach Aric del Rosario promised an improvement from Perpetual Help this season. The Altas, who finished near the bottom last season, achieved that and more.

Perpetual Help reached the Final Four for the first time in eight seasons following a pulsating 73-68 triumph over Jose Rizal U last night to clinch playoff for the last semifinal berth of the 88th NCAA basketball tournament.

Playing the biggest game of his collegiate career, Justin Alano scored 14 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, surviving the hurdle that helped propel the Altas to their Final Four stint since losing in the finals in 2004.

"We just left everything on the floor for this game," said Alano. "We really want to make the Final Four."

Splendid all season long, the Altas' Karl Thompson split his free throws with 13.4 seconds left to give the Altas a 71-68 cushion.

But the shooters, with backing center Tom Mainit sitting the bench on their final play, committed a turnover that led to two free throws of Mels Omengchar for the final score.

The Altas were in control for most of the game until the Bombers staged a late rally behind Payton Villarias and Alex Mercado, who cut the deficit to 68-70 with 1:12 remaining.

Further, St. Benilde's Calvin Grono fills leaned on Robert Bolick in isolation Letran, 71-70, and clinch the No. 2 seed heading into the Final Four of the juniors division.

Bolick provided the firepower when the Cavaliers needed it most as they battled out the eight century that set up a Final Four meeting with the San Sebastian Staglets, who will be crowned outright champions tonight.

Playing all but two minutes of the game, Bolick exploded for scorers-high 34 points.

The loss relegated Letran to fourth spot and a meeting with top seed San Beda, which will seek a sweep on home advantage.

Fist Game

CJ SENSO 18—Gulde 10, Ig 12, Yap 12, Bawasi 1, Sarabi 3, A. Perez 4, Barroca 2, Aplacid, Sinsuat 0

LETRAN 73—Gulde 23, Cabbee 10, Bautista 10, Ilo 9, Bonsavil, Alto 3, Sacro 2, Jab 0, Ramos 0

Benilde 14-10, 20-20, 14-10, 24-10

Second Game

PERPETUAL HELP 73—Alano 14, Domingo 11, Rojas 12, Mendoza 6, Bongcaron 7, Pedero 7, Vital 6, Thompson 5, Mier 2, Libranjo 0

JRU 68—Alonzo 10, Cajot 11, Alo 10, R. Alonzo 1, Leonardo 5, Rosedal-Mendoza 8, Ridulan 4, Salamat 2, Pedro 7, Rabaja, Librojo-ez 0, Manzanal 3

Standings: (5-0) 4-0 (2), 10-10, (7-0)

NISHIOKA goes current on last versus Donaire.

Donaire could force Nishioka retirement

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CARSON, California—While Nonito Donaire Jr. is battling his two world titles at stake, his Japanese opponent Tomoki Nishioka is putting his career on the line.

The 30-year-old fighter from Kakogawa, Hyogo prefecture, said Wednesday that his retirement plan depends on the outcome of the fight this Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila) at Home Depot Center here.

"It's been a long career," said Nishioka (29-4-3 with 24 knockouts) after the open media workout at Boxers Gym on Avalon Boulevard in Wilmington. "I depends on how I feel after the fight. I was thinking about it (retirement) with (Rafael) Marquez but I was more tested in fight Donaire. After the fight we'll see."

He answered a question on how he plans to take down the 29-year-old Filipino holder of the WBO and IBF super bantamweight titles.

"I want to give the fans an exciting fight," said Nishioka, wearing a black shirt with "Speed King" emblazoned across it. "In that fight against (Jeffrey) Mathebula, he (Donaire) kept coming forward and I learned that he can fight that way also. I want to show everybody that I'm the best in the weight class."

Nishioka gave up his WBC title last year after successfully defending it against Marquez in October in Las Vegas. But the WBC bestowed him the title award, his champion last March and is making it "Diamond Title" for the winner of Saturday's fight.

He also discussed the efforts on his rumored speed by his unwavering age and a year-long layoff. The southpaw Nishioka expects to counter Donaire's titles left hook with his left straight.

The Japanese scored over Filipino among his victims: Rulwing Bangayan, whom he killed in the fifth round in April 2008 in Tokyo. Gilbert Jose Espinos, two more on the hands—if Donaire managed beforehand by decision.

Donaire (28-2) is also coming off his KO-1 victory in an hour later and called attention to himself in a highup cap and shirt. He was put up a backdrop bearing his name and irregular Filipino Flash logo.

"It's going to be sound. I will use my brain and execute my plan and my strategy unlike before when I tried to rely on my power. That's pretty much it," said Donaire. "He's also strong and fast. I will all go down to who has a better strategy, sound fight-night."

Donaire's chief trainer Robert Garcia said he's not worried about his sound.

"He's very smart inside the ring," Garcia said. "I'm impressed with what they were doing when I showed up in the morning camp for this fight. Putting his punches together, two-three punch combinations instead of using just one power punch."

The third fight on the bigg will be Raul Caiz Jr., will Abdiaziz Ibrel from Las Vegas and Californians Tony Corbin and Fritz Pahmer as judges. Richard de Cast will be the WBO fight supervisor.

'Gapo swim wonder raises gold haul to 5

By Jane Meneses

LONGAVIN, Pangasinan—Jandrich Alaine Villanueva captured two more swimming gold medals yesterday even as Pangasinan crossed in on top overall honors in track and field after Day 2 of the Northern Luzon leg of the Philippine Olympic Committee-Philippine Sports Commission-Batang Pinoy Games.

Villanueva, the 12-year-old from Olongapo City who captured three gold Wednesday, registered victories in the 12-under 100-meter backstroke and 50m butterfly at the Dagupan City Pool Site and could end up with seven wins when the relayers for the 100m fly and 4x50m free relay today.

"I'm excited to compete in the national championship for free, my focus is to win my last two events," said Villanueva, a seventh grader at the Regional High School in Olongapo City.

Medalists in the five qualifying legs will advance to the national finals in Iloilo City on Dec. 4 to 8.

Villanueva touched the wall first in the 50m fly in 34.07 seconds and duplicated the feat in the 100m back with a time of 1:19.88.

BARACA Alyssa Carrera pulls away en route to the 200-meter freestyle gold.

Meanwhile, Pangasinan sailed away gold medals in athletics and boosted its total to 56 with 69 golds, 68 silvers and 86 bronze. Nueva Ecija is second with 37 golds, 37 silvers and 37 bronze.

Princess Marvin clinched his second and third gold medals in the boys' 13-under 400m hurdles and the 4x100m relay, where he teamed up with double-gold medalist Jeff Lawrence Sangcap and Paul Isaac Maidlag

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Net 'hot' money inflow up by 170% in Sept.

US Fed move said to spur growth in PH investments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NET inflow of foreign portfolio investments to the Philippines nearly tripled in September after global investors' appetite rose for securities from emerging markets.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the net inflow of "hot" money reached $407.42 million in September, up by 171 percent from the $150.05 million registered in the same month last year.

According to the BSP, foreign fund owners purchased more peso-denominated stocks and bonds in September following the announcement by the European Central Bank that it would buy

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 11, 2012
41.550

STOCK MARKET
Oct. 11, 2012
16.13

INDICATORS

Stocks continue to decline

THE LOCAL stock market yesterday barometer's fifth straint session as weaker global growth prospects across could downgrade on Spain soured sentiment across regional markets.

The main share Philippine Stock Ex-

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PH chances of credit upgrade seen to grow dim

Telcos ease rates for Pinoy jetsetters

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COUNTRY'S major telecom firms have upped the ante for their international operations with new roaming services that aims to expand services for travelling subscribers.

Ayala-led Globe Telecom yesterday unveiled promos for postpaid subscribers. Just brings the benefits of "roll" services to more than 200 countries while outside the Philippines.

Ernie Manrique Cole of Globe said in a statement that the new services would give the company the "widest range of roaming offers and promos."

The new service, which is easy High-Speed Cityaround Voices (HSPA) to abbreviate Get calls cheap beneath the slide. Optimum results are obtained 8 to 12 weeks after installed, or once the body has totally entered the desensitized fat cells.

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For more information, visit www.liposonix.com.ph or call 848-8080 and 668-8686 to schedule an appointment at Zunic.

By Michelle F. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES' chances of receiving an investment grade from Standard & Poor's over the near term just got slimmer as the worsening crisis in the eurozone threatened to spill over and affect emerging economies in the Asia-Pacific.

In its latest report, S&P said that the rise in credit rating enjoyed by the Philippines and some of its neighbors might not last long because of the euro zone crisis and its effects on financial markets worldwide.

In July, S&P raised the credit rating of the Philippines to enough to last investment grade, citing [illegible] fundamentals of the country.

"The euro zone is one of the biggest export markets and a source of foreign direct investments for the Philippines and its neighbors. The crisis-torn economies in the Republic could [illegible] many times, especially southern, whose remittances help fuel household consumption in their home countries.

But S&P said in its report that it would "not expect the positive [illegible] rating changes to continue in the coming 12 to 24 months."

"Economic conditions in the developed world and elsewhere would [illegible] and uncertain," it added.

The credit watchdog will not rule out the possibility of a rating upgrade for some Asian economies, but such a development is remote at the time, S&P said.

The crisis in the euro zone has gripped nations and businesses suffering from huge debts and big policy problems. Although the European Central Bank and European policymakers have been implementing measures to address the crisis, these have so far fallen short of what many economists believe are needed to end the problem.

Rise in power bills await some Meralco users

By Amy R. Remo

ROUGHLY 25 percent, or 3.35 million, of Manila Electric Co.'s over 6 million customers are expected to pay an additional amount starting this month to cover the adjustments in their bill deposits, which will serve as "security" for unpaid power bills.

Another 25 percent are expected to get refunds while the rest will not be affected by any adjustments, according to Lisa Rose Chanpian, Meralco vice president for customer process.

In a phone interview, Chanpian admitted this was the first time Meralco would adjust the bill deposits, which should be equivalent to a month's worth of a customer's electricity consumption, based on the rules under the Magna Carta for Electricity Consumers. Each customer whose billed-to-date consumption had risen by at least 30 percent or more from the time it first started using the services of Meralco would have to pay an additional amount for the bill deposit.

According to the Energy Regulatory Commission, the bill deposit is a standard fee required of those applying for a connection with any distribution utility like Meralco. The amount deposited may be adjusted or refunded later.

"The ERC is cognizant of the hardships caused by Meralco's implementation of the increase in the bill deposits of some of its customers. But Chairman [illegible] called Meralco to a conference [Friday] to discuss the matter ... how these hardships can be mitigated, if not avoided," said ERC executive director Francis Saturnino Juan.

Also, Meralco users quick to notice affected consumers that it would look at various options on how to ease the payment terms.

NTC marked revenue spike in September

REVENUES of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) at the end of September reached a record P4.1-billion, boosting officials' expectations that the agency would break new ground in terms of earnings this year.

The figure was higher than the P3.83-billion target set for the NTC.

"The increase in revenue came from the NTC's concerted efforts to strictly enforce stakeholders' compliance in remitting administrative fees," the regulator said in a recent statement.

Stakeholders regulated by the NTC include cable and commercial television operators, broadcast radio stations, telecommunications companies and 2-way radio operators.

The NTC said it was able to attain the figure without having to increase rates or levy new fees.

The NTC noted the statement following an inquiry report that the agency released in 1996 on the [illegible] Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp., which went hellbent up after failing to adapt to cellular technology [illegible].

According to the report that appeared in the August 1996 issue, PLDT attained supervision and regulatory fees amounting to P307.346 million. But the NTC's legal officer recommended that only P137.107 million without securing the commission's approval. The Commission on Audit questioned the deal and is expected to submit its report in February.

The NTC statement made no mention of the the [illegible] report. Paolo G. Montecillo

PH mulls over sugar exports to ease glut

By Rica T. Chichioco

THE PHILIPPINES is considering early sugar imports to the United States and other parts of the world to ease domestic glut, according to industry stakeholders.

Sugar production is up 3.05 percent year-on-year to the first 4 weeks of milling, according to industry figures.

Farmers' federations have asked the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), through Administrator Hermenegildo Serafica Matilla, to allow shipments of Philippine sugar to the United States at a much earlier date than usual, April 2013, tapping the world's sugar market.

"We have already scheduled shipments per to the US. What SRA is studying is the proposal of sugar farmers [to] export to the US earlier than usual, perhaps around December. Shipments to the US usually start January," said Sugar Board member Jesus Emmanuel Romero, who is affiliated with the Philippine Sugar Millers Association.

Industry figures showed that the country has 300,000 metric tons of raw sugar (SRA), 100,000 tons of refined or US quota sugar in stock, along with 10,000-24,000 metric tons of "O" or world market sugar ready for export.

The SRA in a statement said Matilla welcomed the suggestion and referred the matter to the Sugar Board for study and consultation with different stakeholders, including industry.

Sugar milling started last Sept. 1. Nine mills commenced operations early this crop year of 2012-13 compared to the previous period.

As of Sept. 30, there are already 9 mills in operation, a significant jump from the three mills that started during the crop year 2011-12. With more mills processing cane, production in the initial weeks of the crop year rose significantly.

In the first four weeks of milling, the Philippines produced 73,328.03 metric tons—an increase of 105 percent from the 34,824.39 metric tons produced in October 2011.

The early shipment of 'A' and 'O' sugar is a response to the growing volume of available and, therefore, weak demand for sugar.

"We can take advantage of the early shipment of 'O' sugar on hand and work for their export to their destination market," SRA said.

Last crop year, the Philippines exported more than 300,000 metric tons to the United States and over 336,000 metric tons to other parts of the world.

US sugar imports are mainly controlled by tariff-rate quotas, or TRQs, which set the amount of sugar that can enter the country at a low or zero duty.

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SUN

'Hot' money flow

From page B1

more euro zone bonds to address the crisis in the Western region.

The rise in purchases of peso-denominated securities likewise followed the announcement by the Aquino government's plan to sell its supplemental budget onto to help resolve its sovereign debt crisis, the BSP said.

Moreover, the announcement by the US Federal Reserve's intent to start implementation of its "quantitative easing" [illegible] of [illegible] to boost growth of the US economy likewise lifted appetite for portfolio assets from the Philippines and other emerging Asian countries, the BSP said.

September's figure brought the total net inflow of foreign portfolio investments to $2.83 billion in the first nine months of the year—down by 30 percent from the $3.21 billion reported for the same period a year ago.

Officials said the year-on-year drop in the net inflow was due to concerns over the prolonged debt crisis in the eurozone and the lackluster performance of the US economy.

Data from the BSP further showed that stock purchasers in the Philippine Stock Exchange accounted for about $1.66 billion of the net inflow of foreign hot money in September alone. Another $180 million was accounted for by purchases of government securities. The balance was invested in money market instruments and time deposits.

Those that benefited most from equity investments by foreigners were food manufacturing, holding firms, banks, property, firms and telecommunication companies, the BSP said.

Given the move of the US Fed to inject more funds in the US economy, analysts said foreign portfolio investments is emerging markets like the Philippines would probably increase in the months ahead. This is because some of the funds to be injected by the US Fed could be used by beneficiaries to purchase emerging-market assets.

"We expect that there is welcome the increase in foreign investments in the Philippines, but said it is prepared to intervene more in the foreign exchange market if such investments were to become excessive, causing the exchange rate to move volatile

Stocks

From page B1

change index shed 16.13 points, or 0.09 percent, to close at 18,383.47.

Large-cap stocks PLDT, SM Investments, MPI, BPI, AC and ICTSI weighed the index down, alongside Metrobank, BDO, SP and EDC.

On the other hand, Phelps shares re-bounded by 5.26 percent as the company mapped out options on how to resume operations at Bacnotan mine in Benguet.

Gains by ALI, SM Prime, ASL, Petron and Megaworld also tempered PSEi's decline.

Some non-index stocks also attracted interest from the market such as JG Summit, Semirara and Bloomberry.

Index movers amounted to P1.16 billion. There were 74 advancers against 83 decliners.

Metrobank, in its daily commentary, said the drop in US equities overnight was expected to weigh down the local bourse, it noted that Wall Street had also dropped four straight days of losses on worries over the banking eurozone debt crisis and concerns over a global growth slowdown.

On the local market, Metrobank said that "while market corrections are expected, buying on dips is still preferred." Doris C. Bumbac

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Reliability. Do your research. Compare all your options and alternatives then select the one that will give you the convenience you envision in the long run.

Features. To make your decision making process faster and easier, come up with a list of must-haves and nice-to-haves. Always remember that safety should be your main priority.

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SMIC raises $500M via 7-yr offshore bond issue

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON Henry Sy-led SM Investments Corp. has raised $500-million from the sale of overseas bonds at one of the lowest rates snagged by a Philippine corporate issuer for a seven-year tenor.

SMIC yesterday said it had priced the seven-year offshore bond issue to yield a fixed rate of 4.25 percent per year.

The issue was "substantially oversubscribed," attracting subscriptions worth $1.1 billion from institutional and private banking investors in the Philippines and across Asia and Europe, allowing SMIC to upsize the issue from the initial indicative size of $200 million.

The bond issue is a debt management exercise which will further lengthen SMIC's debt profile and take advantage of the much improved interest rate environment.

"This exercise is also one way of maintaining our presence in the bond market and fostering a sustainable relationship with the international investment community," SMIC executive vice president and chief finance officer Jose Ma. Sandiko answered.

DBL Deutsche Bank and J.P. Morgan acted as joint lead managers and joint bookrunners for the transaction.

SMIC was originally planning to issue seven and 10-year bonds but decided to issue only seven-year bonds to take advantage of the low interest rates, said company executive vice president Ferdinand Dy-Buncio.

Dy-Buncio said a 10-year tenor would have been expensive to issue offshore at this time.

The conglomerate, through various subsidiaries, is the dominant player in Philippine banking, shopping mall and retailing businesses. It is also a major power in residential condominium and hotel investment-cum-development.

The last time SMIC ventured into the overseas bond market was in February this year, although that involved a convertible bond issue rather than a straight bond offer. In February, SMIC raised $224 million from the sale of offshore five-year bonds which investors can convert into equity. This was the first convertible bond (CB) offering out of the Philippines this year.

Also, SMIC had a $400-million issue in the local bond exchange in 2010. This was the first ever liability management transaction by a Philippine corporate issuer.

Failed takeover bid

THE CHAIRMAN of SBM Megaweb Inc. by a conglomerate headed by businessman Manuel Pangilinan had ended, at least for the time being.

After months of negotiations, PLDT, the corporate vehicle used by Pangilinan to acquire control over GMA, announced recently that the two companies were unable to agree on the terms of the buyout. This is the second time that acquisitions talks between them fizzled out.

Unknown to many, sometime in the mid 1990s, PLDT, then controlled by the family of businessman Antonio Cojuangco, offered to purchase the holdings of the three major stockholders of GMA. The deal did not push through because the gap between the bid and offer price was very wide.

Looking at Pangilinan's track record on past transactions of similar nature, it is fair to say that this is not the end of the story between him and GMA. Someone in the future, when GMA's controlling stockholders decide to go their separate ways and the offer price is favorable, expect Pangilinan to make a bid for GMA's core assets.

Should that day come, however, there is no assurance that Pangilinan would be alone in his pursuit. At the rate other business tycoons in the country are, thanks to the improving business climate spreading their wings, the bidding for GMA may involve other participants.

Employees

Although GMA's staff won't publicly admit it, they must have breathed a big sigh of relief over the collapse of this acquisition talks. They can now sleep soundly, confident that their jobs are secure at least for now.

Had the buyout pushed through, they face the prospects of job cuts or reduction in benefits.

In spite of assurances about job security (which is the standard line during takeover negotiations to minimize internal resistance), most mergers and acquisitions result in the abolition or downsizing of existing positions, with the employees of the acquired company often suffering the brunt of the exercise.

To Pangilinan's credit, the base in the companies that his group has acquired is jobs are "safely" out.

It starts with the offer of a juicy separation pay scheme to encourage employees to resign or apply for early retirement. Additional benefits, e.g., five years hospitalization benefits or priority in employment of the exemployees' children, are sometimes thrown in to sweeten the pot.

If, in spite of these carrots, the desired reduction number is not reached, the responsibility of layoffs are shielded or declared redundant to justify the dismissal of the employees concerned, subject to the payment of the separations benefits provided for in the collective bargaining agreement or the Labor Code.

Disappointment

The breakdown of the takeover talks is, however, bad news for people who bought SBM stocks when word got around that Pangilinan was interested in acquiring the majority control of the listed property giant.

It is common practice for savvy investors, including brokers and dealers, to quietly buy shares of stocks of companies that are rumored to be potential takeover targets by deep pocketed business groups.

If the acquisition push through and, as a result of the change in the majority ownership, the new owners are obliged by law to make a tender offer for the rest of the stocks held by minority stockholders, the "early bird" investors can expect to earn a windfall from the sale of their stocks.

Too bad, the quiet who took a gamble on GMA stocks in anticipation of favorable results in the talks with Pangilinan lost. Theyre stuck with those stocks and may have to wait for their prices to go up to an amount that would allow them some profit from their sale after deducting the usual broker's fees for the transaction.

From the looks of it, the waiting may take quite some time because the share price of GMA fell by almost 9 percent the day after the scrapping of the acquisition talks was disclosed.

If it's any consolation, bad things turned out differently, those investors will be popping open their champagne bottles now to celebrate their gains.

Underwriters

After probably gnashing their teeth at disappointment over the failed buyout are the underwriting companies and banks that could have provided the funds to pay the asking price of GMA's major stockholders.

In a transaction of this magnitude, estimated to cost between P68 billion to P6B billion, it is doubtful if Pangilinan would have personally dismantled over GMA without the comforting assurance by a syndicate of underwriters, investment houses and banks to lend him the funds he may need for the takeover.

Megadeals, transactions of this nature, attract the big players in the investment and banking community, both here and abroad, like flies to honey. Here or now where the US and European financial markets are suffering from constriction.

Had GMA and Pangilinan been able to come to terms, these IB (investment wizard) have earned millions of pesos in underwriting, syndication, management and a myriad of other fees that usually accompany multi-billion peso deals.

The unrevealed takeover would have also generated a lot of professional fees to the lawyers and accountants who will crunch the numbers and draft the contracts that will document the parties' duties and responsibilities in the planned ownership change in GMA.

As gamblers are wont to say, you win some, you lose some. In GMA's case, Pangilinan's vaunted golden touch in deal-making seems to have lost its magic. Better luck next time, if there would be another one.

(Tips, feedback, please to anon@inquirer.com, pls.)

Yehey! listing on PSE's second board

Disclosures

MONEX Technologies Inc. has disclosed it had bought back 125,000 shares at P3.17 per share on Oct. 5, in line with the company's share buyback program.

***

I-PREMIT Inc. said it had bought back 78,000 of its shares at P2.19 per share and 1,000 shares at P2.80 per share on Oct. 8, in line with the company's share buyback program.

***

DELTA China Resources Inc. has disclosed the buyback of 5,000 shares at P4.15 per share on Oct. 4, in line with the company's share buyback program.

***

DEFEX Holdings Philippines Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Peninsula Manila, Ela Pena Ramirez Park, Legaspi. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 23 are entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

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PUREGOLD Price Club Inc. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Nov. 22. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 22 are entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

—Compiled by Mary Beatrice M. Ponce, Inquirer Research

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INTERNET solutions firm Yehey! Corp., a subsidiary of Vantage Equities Inc., seeks to bring digital marketing plays to the country after it debuts on the Philippine stock exchange on Oct. 19.

Although listing by way of introduction or without an initial public offering, Yehey will have a public ownership of 10 percent upon listing, as its parent company had declared corporate shares as property dividends in 2007. This is similar to the route taken by the controlling shareholders of Rockwell Land Corp. and Phoenix Petroleum.

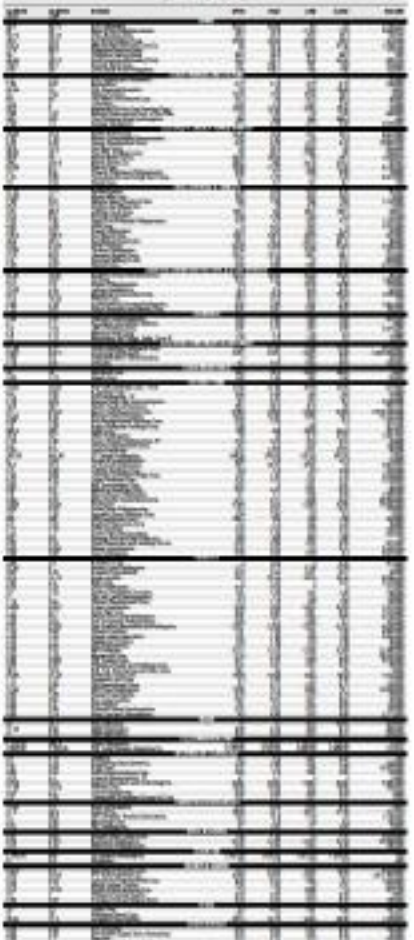
The listing of Yehey on the local bourse gives the corporate shareholders a way to cash out and for new investors to buy from the open market. This is, thus, the fulfillment of the promise made by Vantage to its stockholders when the property dividends were declared, said Vantage director Wilson Ilo.

He said Yehey! had no plans to raise additional money from the stock market after the listing and would consider widening the public float only if required by the stock exchange.

On Thursday, Yehey will list 27.9 million common shares on the PSE's second board at an initial price of P1 per share. The company is the first "pure online" player for incorporation. The second board is a haven for companies with smaller capitalization but with high growth potential.

Established in 2000, Yehey is a Web-based company offering digital media, search engines and web development/hosting, design and online marketing/consulting. About 80 percent of its business comes from digital marketing while the rest comes from other media and advertising services. Yehey's goal is to help its clients go up to "proximity" marketing that blends brand campaigns to mall goers over SM's free WiFi in its shopping malls.

Yehey general manager Jay Avellano said apart from diversifying services and digital coverage he is mindful of customer needs—including those in the fast-moving consumer goods business—when we also arrive in the digital acquisition management business. Doris C. Dumlao



NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA CEMENT HOLDINGS, INC.

Southeast Asia Cement Holdings, Inc. ("Seacem" or the "Company") shall conduct a voluntary tender offer (the "Tender Offer") to buy back up to an aggregate 985,336,094 issued and outstanding common shares of the Company ("Tender Offer Shares") representing 16% of Seacem shares held by (i) shareholders ("Seacem Public Shareholders") other than the Principal Shareholders. The Principal Shareholders are Columbiaport Holdings, Inc., Lafarge Holdings (Philippines) Inc., Seacem Bias Inc., Lafarge Republic, Inc. (LRI) and the Company's directors.

As of the date hereof, a total of 1,080,894,697 common shares ("Seacem Public Shares") representing approximately 16.68% of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Seacem are owned by the Seacem Public Shareholders.

Each Seacem Public Shareholder may tender all of his/her shares in Seacem ("Tendering Shareholder"). However, in the event that the total Seacem shares tendered at the end of the Tender Offer Period exceeds the Tender Offer Shares, the Company may reduce the number of shares tendered on a pro rata basis.

Furthermore, the Philippine Constitution limits ownership of enterprises engaged in the utilization of natural resources of the Philippines to citizens of the Philippines and/or corporations at least 60% of the capital is owned by citizens of the Philippines ("Philippine Nationals"). LRI is engaged in quarrying activities and as such, foreign ownership in LRI is limited to a maximum of 40% of LRI's outstanding capital stock. Should the tender of the Seacem Public Shares in exchange for LRI Shares result in the ownership by non-Philippine Nationals of LRI shares in excess of 40% of LRI's outstanding capital stock, the Company shall be constrained to reject and not accept for purchase such number of tendered shares as would cause a breach of the above-described foreign ownership restriction.

The Company shall purchase the Tender Offer Shares in exchange for: (i) common shares owned by Seacem in LRI ("LRI Shares") at an exchange ratio of 1:1 (Seacem Public Shares for every one LRI Share) ("Exchange Ratio"), provided that, any fractional LRI share resulting from the Exchange Ratio shall be rounded down to the nearest whole number and shall not be issued, and (ii) a cash amount of P0.6277 per Seacem share ("Cash Amount"). Any fractional LRI share resulting from the Exchange Ratio shall be rounded down to cover customary charges ("Transaction Charges")* due from the Tendering Shareholder in relation to the sale of the Tender Offer Shares and to the purchase of the LRI Shares, in each case, by the tendering Shareholder, to be effected by way of a block sale on the Philippine Stock Exchange. The Cash Amount shall be withheld by the Company and applied as payment of the Transaction Charges.

The Exchange Ratio represents the ratio between the volume-weighted average price from September 6, 2011 to September 26, 2011 of the Seacem Shares and the LRI Shares, with a premium of approximately 3.3% on the LRI share value that is embedded in the Seacem shares. Applying the Exchange Ratio, each Seacem Share is valued at P2.4496, while each LRI Share is valued at P8.31.

The Cash Amount shall be withheld by the Company and applied towards the payment of the Transaction Charges. A Tendering Shareholder is not subject to separate commissions charged by the Manager under Section 3 hereof.

Hereunto, in the event that more than 85% Seacem Public Shares (in aggregate) are tendered, the number of Seacem Public Shares tendered by a particular Tendering Shareholder shall be reduced pro rata by the percentage difference between the: (i) actual percentage of the amount of Seacem Public Shares actually tendered, and (ii) 85%. However, if 85% or less than the Seacem Public Shares shall have been tendered, all such shares tendered by each of the Tendering Shareholders may be accepted for purchase by the Company. For example:

A. Where more than 85% of the Seacem Public Shares (in aggregate) are Tendered:

e.g. if 95% of the Seacem Public Shares are tendered:

100,000 Seacem Shares x 90.9% = 90,894 Seacem Shares

For every 100,000 Seacem Public Shares tendered by each Tendering Shareholder, the Company will purchase 90,894 of such shares and shall return 2,106 shares to the Tendering Shareholder.

B. Where 85% or Less Than The Total Number of Seacem Public Shares (in aggregate) are Tendered:

100,000 Seacem Shares = 100,000 Seacem Shares

For every 100,000 Seacem Public Shares tendered by each Tendering Shareholder, the Company may accept for purchase 100,000 of such shares.

In the event that the Seacem Public Shares tendered are reduced pro rata as provided above, then such number of Seacem Public Shares that are reduced ("Returned Seacem Shares") shall be returned to the Seacem Public Shareholder that tendered them.

* For Transaction Charges, please see the following:

1. Selling Charges for the Sale of Seacem Shares

Type of Fee	% of value of the transaction
Philippine Stock Exchange Transaction Fee	0.005%
SCCP Fee (CP Agent's Fee - Broker's Commission)	0.010%
Value Added Tax (VAT)	12.000%
Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines	0.002%
Stock Investment Corporation Fund	0.001%
Sales Tax	0.150%
SEC Transaction Fees	0.005%
TOTAL	0.173%

2. Buying Charges for the Purchase of LRI Shares

Type of Fee	% of value of the transaction
Philippine Stock Exchange Transaction Fee	0.005%
SCCP Fee (CP Agent's Fee - Broker's Commission)	0.010%
Value Added Tax (VAT)	12.000%
Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines	0.002%
Stock Investment Corporation Fund	0.001%
Sales Tax	0.150%
SEC Transaction Fees	0.005%
TOTAL	0.173%

* The Company will withhold sufficient funds to cover all of the Transaction Charges.

The Tender Offer will commence at 9:00 a.m. on October 12, 2011 and end at 12:00 noon on November 14, 2011. The Company reserves the right to extend the Tender Offer with the approval of the SEC.

Scrip shareholders (i.e., shareholders who hold paper certificates of the Company who wish to sell their shares should complete the Application in triplicate and submit the same with the following attachments to Deutsche Regis Partners, Inc. (the "TO Agent") at the address set forth below not later than November 7, 2011:

DEUTSCHE REGIS PARTNERS, INC.
23rd Floor, Tower One
Ayala Triangle, 1226 Makati City
Philippines

a. Original Seacem stock certificate duly endorsed, to be verified by the TO Agent with Stock Transfer Service Inc., the stock transfer agent of Seacem, as valid and subsisting certificates. For those whose stock certificates is/are lost: (i) one (1) original of a duly notarized affidavit of loss; (ii) a copy of the affidavit of loss as published in a newspaper of general circulation on substantially the form of Annex E to the Application which is Exhibit D to the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Company with the SEC; (iii) affidavit of publication (or affidavit of loss) and notarized in the amount of twice the closing price per share of the Seacem shares as of the date of the execution of the affidavit of loss, multiplied by the number of Seacem shares covered by the lost stock certificate.

b. For Individuals:

(i) For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Irrevocable Power of Attorney in substantially the form attached as Annex B to the Application, which is Exhibit D to the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Company with the SEC. For married individuals who are Philippine citizens, their respective spouses must sign the space provided in the Irrevocable Power of Attorney to indicate marital consent to the sale of the Shares.

(ii) Photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards showing the Applicant's signature and photograph, i.e., driver's license, tax identification card, Social Security Services/Government Services and Insurance System card, or passport.

(iii) Duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the Applicant and verified by the Applicant's broker or by an officer of the bank at which the Applicant maintains an account. If the applicant has/will appoint the broker of the broker and the broker's signatory as the case may be.

c. For Corporations:

(i) Notarized Board Resolutions (in substantially the form of the Secretary's Certificate attached as Annex C to the Application which is Exhibit D to the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Company with the SEC) authorizing the sale of the Tender Offer Shares, designating signatories for the purpose and indicating the specimen signatures of those signatories.

(ii) Copy of SEC Registration or equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Corporate Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of company records.

(iii) Copy of latest Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the Applicant or equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Corporate Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of company records.

(iv) Duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of the Applicant's designated authorized signatories and verified by the Applicant's broker or by an officer of the bank at which the Applicant maintains an account (the signatures card must specify the name of the broker and the broker's signatory or the name of the bank and the bank's signatory, as the case may be).

d. For Partnerships:

(i) Copy of SEC Registration or equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Partnership Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of the partnership records.

(ii) Copy of the latest Articles of Partnership of the Applicant or equivalent constitutive document certified as true copy of the original by the Partnership Secretary or equivalent person having official custody of the partnership records.

(iii) Notarized Partnership Resolution (in substantially the form of the Partner's Certificate attached as Annex D to the Application, which is Exhibit D to the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Company with the SEC) authorizing the sale of the Shares, designating signatories for the purpose and indicating the specimen signatures of the signatories.

(iv) Duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of the Applicant's designated authorized signatories and verified by the applicant's broker or by an officer of the bank at which the Applicant maintains an account (the signatures card must specify the name of the broker and the broker's signatory or the name of the bank and the bank's signatory, as the case may be).

e. Letter to the TO Agent on the preferred manner of distribution of the LRI Shares (in the form of Annex F to the Application, which is Exhibit D to the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Company with the SEC).

Scripless shareholders (i.e., shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") of brokers who wish to accept the offer must instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their Tender Offer Shares to the TO Agent. The member broker(s) of the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") who holds(s) the Tender Offer Shares, should, upon receipt of the notice of the Tender Offer, immediately notify the relevant shareholder that should the shareholder wish to sell his/her shares in Seacem to the Company, the shareholder must instruct said participating broker to electronically transfer its/his/her shares to the TO Agent, in accordance with details, not later than 12:00 p.m. on November 14, 2011. When tendering shares, the participating brokers are required to submit the letter to the TO Agent (in the form of Annex I to the Instructions to Participating TO Agents, which is Exhibit E to the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Company with the SEC) not later than 12:00 p.m. on November 14, 2011 as well as the duly completed Applications.

The terms of the Application (including the Representations and Warranties) shall form integral parts of the Terms of the Tender Offer, which in turn form integral parts of the Application.

The Tender Offer Shares shall be deemed accepted by the Company on November 14, 2011 subject to the conditions hereof and that the TO Agent has determined that the Tendering Shareholders shall have submitted the required documents and obtained all the required approvals and authorizations to enable it to transfer the Tender Offer Shares to the Company before the expiration of the Tender Offer.

The Company through the TO Agent [illegible] reserves the right to reject or accept any Application at any time before the Cross Date. Subject to the terms and conditions hereof, applications: (i) received after the Offer Period, or (ii) that are not properly completed, or (iii) lack any of the required attachments, will be rejected ("Rejected Applications").

The TO Agent will accept Applications on the condition that it is able to verify the signature/endorsement on Seacem stock certificates by verifying the signature on file with Seacem's stock and transfer agent, if such is available. The TO Agent will rely on the signature affixed on the Application and on the supporting identification documents or board resolution when it verifies the endorsement of the relevant Seacem stock certificates. The TO Agent shall not be required to make further inquiries into the authenticity of the signature. If the TO Agent is unable to verify the signature on the Application or the endorsement of the Seacem stock certificates, the TO Agent will also reject the Application.

Shares resulting from (i) Rejected Applications, (ii) pro rata reduction of an Applicant's tendered shares because the total shares tendered under the Tender Offer exceed 15% of the Seacem Public Shares, and (iii) rejection of tendered shares to be exchanged for LRI shares which would cause a breach of the 40% foreign ownership limit in LRI, shall, in each case, be returned in the same form they were received by the Tendering Shareholder's broker (for scripless shares) or to the Tendering Shareholder (for certificated shares) within three (3) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period.

Any and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the return of the rejected/excess shares shall be borne by the Tendering Shareholder.

Tendering Shareholders whose Applications have been rejected, in whole or in part, shall be notified of such fact by the TO Agent on or before November 19, 2011.

The Cross Date is scheduled to be on November 18, 2012, subject to the approval by the PSE of the block sale of the Tender Offer Shares and subject further to any extension of the Tender Offer Period with the approval of the SEC. Any change in the Cross Date shall be announced by the Company in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Star.

The settlement date shall be three (3) trading days after the Cross Date (the "Settlement Date"), subject to any extension of the Tender Offer Period with the approval of the SEC.

The TO Agent will act as agent for Tendering Shareholders for the purpose of receiving the LRI Shares from the Company and transmitting the LRI Shares to such Tendering Shareholders. The LRI shares or checks payments to be issued to Tendering Shareholders shall be made available by the TO Agent for pick-up by the Tendering Shareholders starting on Settlement Date at its offices.

Scrip shareholders shall inform the TO Agent of the manner by which it/he/she wishes to receive the LRI Shares, whether it be in certificated or scripless form. Should the Tendering Shareholder choose to receive the LRI Shares in certificated form, a "Declaration of Copy" of the Application as well as proper identification (e.g., driver's license, passport) shall be submitted to the TO Agent upon collecting the LRI Shares. Duly authorized representatives shall be required to present an authorization letter from the Tendering Shareholders.

Tendering beneficial owners of Tender Offer Shares are advised to consult with their custodian, fiduciaries, or other similar agents on the manner by which they may collect the LRI Shares from such agents.

In any event, the distribution of the LRI Shares shall not be made without the TO Agent having timely received the duly accomplished Applications, the stock certificates evidencing the Tender Offer Shares and other documents required herein.

Any payment not collected within thirty (30) trading days from the Cross Date shall be dispatched via registered mail, to the address of the Tendering Shareholder indicated in the Application, at the risk of the latter.

Tendering Shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any Tender Offer Shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period but only up to November 14, 2011 at 12:00 noon, by submitting a written request for the withdrawal of the Tender Offer Public Shares to the TO Agent with a copy of the "Applicant's Copy" of the Application issued by the TO Agent. If tendered Tender Offer Shares are not accepted by the Company after November 14, 2011, Tendering Shareholders may likewise withdraw their tendered shares.

For withdrawal of the tendered shares to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by the TO Agent before 12:00 noon on November 14, 2011 at the address set forth herein. The notice must specify the name of the Tendering Shareholders and the number of Tender Offer Shares to be withdrawn. If the stock certificates evidencing the Tender Offer Shares have been delivered to the TO Agent, the serial numbers shown on such certificates must be submitted to the TO Agent prior to the physical release of such certificates. No request for withdrawal of fractions of Tender Offer Shares will be considered. The TO Agent shall have the right in its sole discretion, to determine the form and validity of the notice of withdrawal, including the time of receipt thereof.

All expenses incurred by the TO Agent in respect of withdrawal of Tender Offer Shares shall be for the account of the shareholder making the withdrawal.

The key dates of the Tender Offer are as follows:

Commencement of Tender Offer Period	October 12, 2011
Deadline for scrip shareholders	November 7, 2011
End of Tender Offer Period	November 14, 2011
Cross Date	November 18, 2011
Settlement Date	November 22, 2011

All Seacem Public Shareholders are advised to read the Application Form, the Terms of the Tender Offer, and the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Company with the SEC and the PSE.

For inquiries regarding the Tender Offer, please contact the TO Agent, Deutsche Regis Partners, Inc. at +632 894 6631 (Judith Tanodci, +632 894 6633 (Daniel Chuja), and +632 894 6623 (Philippe Hipolito). For inquiries about the number of shares of a shareholder in Seacem, please contact Stock Transfer Service Inc. at +632 483 2410, +632 483 2411, +632 483 2432, and +632 483 2398 (Mr. Richard Regala or Mr. Michael Capuy)

SOUTHEAST ASIA CEMENT HOLDINGS, INC.

Marketing Biz
BUSINESS Friday
E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Real estate firms now going into furnished homes

By Theresa S. Sarmiento

IT ALL boils down now as to who can further go the extra mile.

The cutthroat competition in the Philippine real estate sector has led many developers to realize that selling their respective property projects must soon be packaged with prime, value-added services that go beyond lip service, the glossy fine prints and the savvy marketing ploys, to ensure that buyers can submit to the **low-risk possible**.

And Megaworld Corp., the country's largest residential condominium developer, knows this only too well.

In January this year, Megaworld created a new marketing division it called Prime Properties Group (PPG) dedicated specifically to provide topnotch after-sales service to new customers. This division, which is offering highly personalized touch sets the many add-on costs, is deemed to spark significance changes in the **local realty industry**.

The PPG, which targets to cater to the specific needs of the acquisitioners and particularly segment of the market, was initially set up to exclusively handle all the completed and ready-for-occupancy units of Megaworld and other value added services in new clients like free interior design.

Recently however, Megaworld officials announced that the company is further expanding its already revolutionary after-sales service through the newly-formed Leasing and Resale Management Services.

"We hope to go beyond the expectations of our clients. Here in Megaworld, we are always anticipating their needs to ensure they gets the best market value for their units," says Donna Rachu, VP for sales and marketing of Megaworld PPG.

"It's like a concierge service wherein we will give full assistance. We will be extending our after sales service to a bigger group which now includes previous existing unit owners," Rachu adds.

With the said program, unit owners of any Megaworld property who would want to sell or lease out their units will be assisted in securing potential buyers and tenants, in negotiating and collecting bank financing options; and in maintaining and refurbishing units, among others.

"Basically it's an added value for our buyers. Also, we see that there's a lot of demand for such services as there are really those who buy for investment," she further shares.

The new program began only a few weeks ago with the first-wood township in Quezon City as the pilot project. It is hoped that the Leasing and Resale Management Services will help increase the sales of Megaworld developments.

"We were crossed with a long term vision of providing the best services to all our clients. Thus, we think of ways on how we reach out to all our clients by having their feel like 'this is it! they already want to sell their units," Rachu says.

To avail of such services, owners need only to enroll to the said program and this will be handled by the specialty group which is tasked to look after units that are to be leased out or sold.

"It's actually a very basic registration process, owners need to only enroll in our program, register all information needed, sign the services agreement and provide us a list of furniture and appliances," explains Philipp Liner of Megaworld.

"From there we will look for possible lessees and make offers and counter offers until we reach a mutual agreement then we are the contract and facilitate the move in. In between we also conduct periodic visits to ensure that the unit will always be in tiptop shape. We also have our own housekeeping to handle the maintenance of the units," Liner adds.

Meanwhile, Rachu also notes that those who want to rent or buy the units will also be able to avail of the group's free interior design services, which is now available to RFO (ready-for-occupancy) unit buyers.

PPG currently markets and sells RFO properties across Megaworld's townships like Eastwood City, McKinley Hill, Forbestown, Center and Newport City, as well as in city projects in Makati, Bonifacio and Quezon City.

DONNA Rachu on left while right photo shows a furnished unit for sale.

Full-time mom brings Dutch delicacy to PH

By Ana G. Roa

DURING HER TRIPS to Holland, full-time mom Maribel Roach enjoyed eating kroket, a famous potato snack in the Netherlands.

It was her love for the food and her passion for cooking that made her decide to venture into a food cart business that sells kroket with a Filipino twist.

"When I tasted the product, I really fell in love with it," says Roach, a native of Laguna.

Kroket (Dutch word for a fried ball) is usually served in fancy restaurants in the country she says.

But with Krokketon food stall, Filipinos can enjoy the crunchy potato snack at an affordable price.

"In Holland, you can buy kroket at the grocery, vending machines or at the airport. I have long been wanting to bring it to the Philippines," she says.

During the consumption tour phase for Rodeorun, Rondo's also sees the potential kroket in the Filipino masses as it would gain the same popularity it enjoys in Holland.

Before opening the first stall in April last year at the Festival Mall in Alabang-Zapote Road and her team joined bazaars and committed Promenade, an expert in franchise development.

"Towards the end of 2011, I started to put up a team to conceptualize the project. We started working and perfecting the recipe," she says.

Krokketon offers three variants—original kroket, kroketbalen and minikroket—for only P35.

The original kroket is the oblong shape with ground beef, chicken and cheese while kroketbalen, by far the best seller, has three pieces of crunchy potato balls stuck coin with dips.

The minikroket has bite-sized potato balls in assorted flavors including cheese, chicken, beef, bacon and hotdog. There are also Filipino-style flavors such as longganisa, pork adobo, mango, and ube flakes.

Roach added that Krokketon is a healthy choice as it uses corn oil for deep frying and every chicken, chicken, beef, bacon, pork and hotdog as ingredients.

Krokketon is located in 500 Mall of Asia, Pearl of Mall Alabang, Filinvest Corporate City Tower Makati, Market! Market!, Eastwood Cyber Bloom, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ilocos East, SM North Edsa, and SM Lipa Batangas. For inquiries on franchising, contact (0917)5994423. Email: krokketon@krokketon.yahoo.com

Bill Roach

Krokketon offers three variations—original kroket, kroketbalen and minikroket—for only P35.

'Which is better? Customer acquisition or customer retention?'

Q: IN OUR RECENT sales planning, we ended in a deadlock. Our growing car life insurance business, our home Group of insurance brokers proposed to just consolidate with the strategy that we've gotten used to over the past so many years but with easier and better incentives.

That strategy is to go after new customers or new life insurance policy owners.

Sales argue that the untapped market is twice or even three times as big as the already insured. They presented data from the Insurance Commission to support.

Our marketing consultant tells me our CEO's MBA profession had a completely different idea. He said that for immediately growing the business like in the next year or two, sourcing that growth from our existing policy owners and lapsed policy owners will obtain our business growing objective more cost-effectively. Our problem was that the consultant did not show how this would happen except to cite the finding of TQM (Total Quality Management) concerning that "it costs five times more to get a new customer than to keep an existing one."

Why we have your Marketing Rx please? Which is better for us? To acquire new life insurance policy holders or to preserve our growth from re-signing our existing policy owners?

A: Let's start by diagnosing each side of the impasse. On the side of your sales and insurance brokers, the issue is primarily related to income level. Sales get their commissions and bonuses from bringing in new customers or new insurance policy holders than from being able to keep existing policy holders.

In fact, our won't be surprised at all if you have been saying: "Our job is to sell, done. They're here sold. Whether they want to stay with us or leave us, that's entirely up to them." So your Sales has more likely never been trained to look at existing policy holders as a source of further revenues, as a source of growing your business.

On the side of your marketing consultant, he has to recognize that there's at least two different but significant considerations to the issue. There's first the considerations of incentives in Sales to keeping sold policy holders vs. way Sales is current because the ability to find those's more. The more likely, your consultant is thinking of something else. And that's the other considerations. He's thinking of selling something more to those new insured customers. For example, why not convince the just insured customer to turn another insurance policy and therefore become a multiple policy insured of your being a single policy holder? Or get one who's a multiple policy holder to change his/her insurance policy to a much larger insured value? Or why not go after those lapsed customers who are still insured and get them re-insured?

It is in these alternative tactics of business growing where your consultant can collaborate in specific terms our effectiveness versus the strategy of new customer acquisition. For new customers, Sales is dealing of sourcing those from the larger population of the semi-rich evidenced by the data from the Insurance Commission.

Most or almost all of these untapped prospects are probably from Class E or Class F homes. The debate is not about whether they are desirable or not because in population size they are two huge market segments.

The cost-effectiveness question is mine here is how expensive is the tailor-ed process of design to successfully penetrate these market segments. Given their homes mean modest sizes, in less than an expensive tri-media campaign will be called for. Compare this to selling the single policy holders and even the multiple policy holders and even the still untapped lapsed customers. The sales and person campaign for these market segments are all going to be based on your database of existing and lapsed policy holders. Networking and studying these customers will cost you practically nothing as compared to screening and reaching the mass-market segments of the uninsured via the tri-media communication.

So to break the deadlock, why don't you first cost out the expensive selling strategies as defined above or as similarly defined in very specific and concrete terms.

When you do this, you'll be able to draw and evidence which of the two selling strategies is the truly more cost-effective option.

Secondly you need to take up the consideration of investment and training. Give your HR to work with Sales at the comparable and suitable incentive scheme for "selling" (and not just keeping) prospective populations of customers including the still uninsured, lapsed customers. Then present the worked-out incentive scheme to top management for approval.

Next comes the need for training. Some may argue that adding to existing incentives is still selling and should therefore be not that different from selling to new customers. When you get to the details of the selling process, the difference that makes a real difference will surface.

The new selling process details will have to be expensive in the tailored process design to successfully penetrate these market segments. Given their homes mean modest sizes, in less than an expensive tri-media campaign will be called for. Compare this to selling the single policy holders and even the multiple policy holders and even the still untapped lapsed customers. The sales and person campaign for these market segments are all going to be based on your database of existing and lapsed policy holders. Networking and studying these customers will cost you practically nothing as compared to screening and reaching the mass-market segments of the uninsured via the tri-media communication.

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It is in your new selling process details that the need for a new sales training will be recognized and appreciated. It is also out of those details where the coverage and content of the required sales training will come.

If you have your questions, comments and clues to us at MarketingRx@yahoo.com, or drop us a line at MarketingRx@gmail.com. Good luck!

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberts & Andy Roberts

When you get to the details of selling process, difference that makes a real difference will surface.

Power, smuggling issues top industries' concerns

By Rea T. Dalmacio

BUSINESSMEN belonging to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) have asked the government to address concerns on power supply, smuggling and other issues affecting industries across the country.

The PCCI presented its recommendations through resolutions that were submitted to President Aquino at the close of the 36th Philippine Business Conference and Expo.

PCCI president Miguel E. Varela, in an interview, highlighted the resolutions on power, agriculture and tourism as these had stayed on both the short-term and long-term needs of many industries.

The resolutions were packaged into sections, namely: focus; agriculture; education; energy; power and water; environment; housing and urbanization; information and communications technology industry; mining; SME development; strong peso; taxation; and transportation and logistics.

Saying that the power crisis is really just the effect of the bottlenecks in the government and the investment environment in this sector, businessmen pushed for measures that could encourage competition and save prices.

The PCCI supported current efforts of the Department of Energy to increase and fast-track participation and get exploration, work closely with the Mindanao Development Authority and other stakeholders to create the Mindanao Power Monitoring Commission, and coordinate with the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Finance (DOF) to develop a roadmap for improving competitiveness and investment.

The resolution also urged the DOE to extensively consider establishing a Permanent Demand and Supply Aggregator Agency "in order to create true competitive and transparent electricity markets, a competitive tariff rates and efficient supply contracting."

"For the purpose of presenting our recommendations to the President we didn't want the messages to be garbled. We felt it only best to give people like the energy secretary, the Mindanao Development Monitoring Commission, for example, will provide the needs to ensure specific suggestions. We will submit it to the Office of the President to ensure continuing more specific recommendations," PCCI vice-president for Mindanao Ranelle Juliano-Ty said in a phone interview.

One of the "specifics" being pushed for Mindanao is the quick resolution of the ownership of the 112-megawatt (MW) Bigan diesel power plant, which is under the Commission on Audit's (COA) supervision. "That is one of the issues that need a short-term timetable. We will make specific recommendations that are measurable and can be followed up. The resolutions will be passed this October during the annual Philippine Business Conference," Juliano said.

Takeshi Iwata, president of Mindanao Coal, earlier said the Mindanao power crisis that resulted in frequent outages during the summer months was expected to continue until 2015 because of the lack of new hundred plants. Demand for electricity in Mindanao, especially in the key industrial hubs of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, is already unstable supply, according to reports. Both demand this year has reached 1,100 megawatts. During summer, the shortfall is seen to reach an average of 200 megawatts, which is equivalent to the capacity of one mothballed coal-fired power plant.

Business leader have noted that several power projects in Mindanao have been approved by the Department of Energy but some has started, apparently due to opposition or red tape in the offices of host local governments.

The business group's resolution calling for the adoption of anti-smuggling measures took up the bulk of the section on industry.

NAGAOKA International Corp. president and CEO Hiroshi Maeda (second from left), a member of the Global Project Innovation Awards judging panel, hands to Maynilad Water Services president and CEO Victorico P. Vargas (second from right) the Global Honors Award given by the International Water Association (IWA) to the water companies in a ceremony held in Busan, South Korea. Maynilad won the award for its Water Service Transformation Program, which resulted in the dramatic improvement and accelerated expansion of water services in the West Zone in just five years. With Maeda and Vargas are Maynilad SVP-Finance Ayalbert and John Patrick Gregorio.

PRULINK — **PRU LIFE UK**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Oct. 10, 2013	Oct. 09, 2013
Bond Fund - Peso	1.45491	1.45491
Managed Fund - Peso	2.71144	2.71142
Growth Fund - Peso	2.33001	2.32 968
Equity Fund - Peso	1.94484	1.94481
Bond Fund - US Dollar	2.00104	2.00100
Balanced Pension Fund	1.13577	1.13565
Specialized Equity Fund	1.17008	1.17010
Protection Fund - Peso	1.08067	1.08070
Money Market Fund - Peso	1.04617	1.04617
Asian Local Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.03442	1.03387

PSEi seen to hit 6,200-mark next year

THE LOCAL stocks index, now trading at all-time highs, has enough room to hit as high as 6,200 next year, said stock market veteran Wilson Sy.

Sy, a director at mutual fund management firm Philequity Management and former chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, said the Philippines story remains bullish, as the market is more conducive to corporate earnings growth.

He said the Philippines was among the few countries whose growth trajectory remained certain despite the global economic downturn.

As such, he said the PSE index might end the year at 5,800 and rise 6,000 to 6,200 by next year.

Based on Philequity's individual price targets for index stocks, the index is seen rising by 10 percent through next year from current levels.

A key assumption is that the domestic economy would sustain a growth rate of more than 5 percent, which will improving corporate earnings.

According to Philequity's estimates, the local stock market is now trading at 18.7 times the prospective earnings for 2013 and at 16.1 times the likely earnings for 2013.

But based on the price-earnings-to-growth (PEG) ratio, they said the market was still growing by 1.5-to-point.

"There's more certainty in the growth of Philippine stocks that are linked compared to other countries like Korea and Thailand that are reliant on exports," Sy said, adding that domestic consumption was a long-term factor for the Philippines.

PEG, a widely-used indicator of a stock's potential value, takes into account not only the price-to-earnings multiple but also the growth in earnings per share. — Rea V. Dalmacio

Aboitiz unit plans to put up own transmission line

By Amy R. Remo

THERMA South Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corp., is seeking regulatory approval for its plan to put up its own 138-kilovolt transmission line that will connect its 300-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Davao to the Mindanao grid.

In a filing with the Energy Regulatory Commission, APC averred that the 300-million transmission line would be for the "exclusive, non-wire utility option" to connect its generation plant to the national transmission system, particularly the Toril Substation, which is currently being managed by National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP).

Based on the filing, Therma Marine and NGCP are moving toward the signing of a memorandum of agreement that will provide the terms that will govern the connection. Under a standard MOA, Therma Marine will be responsible for the financing and construction of the connection assets. It will also own, operate and maintain them subject to later decision to commission the turnover of NGCP for the operation and maintenance of the facilities.

Therma Marine added losses would be tapped to finance the transmission line.

Bobby Ortiz, first vice president for Mindanao affairs of APC, said last month that the Davao coal project is needed on trials, with the first phase of 150 MW soon to be completed within the last quarter of 2014 and the last phase of another 150 MW by the first quarter of the following year.

Apart from additional power supply, the coal power project is expected to generate up to 2,000 direct and indirect jobs during the estimated 37-month construction period.

APC has maintained the importance of the 300-megawatt planned coal facility as this will provide reliable and affordable power, which is essential to Davao city's growth and development.

It earlier stressed that the Mindanao grid needs adequate, reliable power supply in Mindanao, because the island—which gets more than half of its electricity requirements from hydropower sources...needed to get the right mix of power to avoid the recurrence of what it found to be adverse weather developments such as the El Niño phenomenon.

Based on government estimates, the shortfall in power supply was expected to worsen over the next few years. By 2014, the shortage will be about 400 MW—apparently enough to cut off the entire power supply in the cities of Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan, Butuan, Tandag and Surigao.

Mayors leading agricultural extension work

From page B6

Approach

While waiting for the draft extension work paper to be committed on by different groups like Alyansa Agribenteo, two components have been delivered already.

One is that there have to be coordination and synergistic action among the extension workers from the three different groups identified in the Alyansa.

The second is that there should be a good agricultural municipal plan with identified priority areas so that agricultural extension work will be focused on the important areas.

Though the ATI is no longer primarily responsible for agricultural development, it is partially responsible for giving the support to the LGUs to enable them to make agricultural development successful.

Today most LGUs are not equipped properly to do this. They need ES assistance. While the huge increase in DA budget for this year and next years this kind of assistance should now systematically be given to the LGUs, rather than DA offering a program then the LGUs must implement.

ES must now have a program to assist the LGUs to formulate good municipal agricultural plans.

There must then catalyze the meeting of these extension workers from the government, private sector, and the LGUs in each municipality so that synergistic extension will address the constraints and agricultural plans and the identified priorities provided.

After DA performs this role as a catalyst, the LGUs will now take over the mandates of agricultural development.

ATI budget

The ATI budget was increased from P800 million last year to P900 million this year. The Mayors supported the initially proposed 2014 budget of P1.2 billion, but this was downsized. Nevertheless, the budget increase provided the ATI to improve its reach from 200 to 400 municipalities. This is still small, however, considering those composites only 15 percent of our municipalities.

Based on ATI's good performance this year, the Alyansa supports the initial proposal of P1.6 billion for next year. Endorsement by the budget being considered for next year is only P958 million.

With the two critical tasks of assisting the LGUs in formulating good municipal agricultural plans and synergizing the extension work from the three groups identified by Alyansa, it is imperative that the Congress decide on a separate appropriation rather than a discretionary for the ATI budget next year. This may with a clear plan and focused extension activities, the mayors can succeed in their important responsibility of agricultural development.

(The author is chair of Agri-search, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For questions and suggestions, email agrisearch.phil@yahoo.com or website: pdfi.ph.tc)

NOTICE OF LOST STOCKS CERTIFICATES

Notice is hereby given that the following stocks certificates of Ayala Land, Inc. (the "Corporation"), registered in the name of Ms. Cecilia V. Bienvenido and Ms. Pat Socorro V. Caminade, have been lost:

Stockholder	Stocks Certificate Nos.	No. of Shares
Ms. Cecilia V. Bienvenido	100001	42,864
Jules Cecilia Teresita Yulo	100000	42,864
Bienvenido or Cecilia Teresita J. Yulo	100005	42,864
Total	100007	300,481
	Total Number of Shares	428,641
Ms. Pat Socorro V. Caminade	100009	42,864
Jules Ms. Pat Socorro Yulo	100008	42,864
(illegible)	100010	42,864
	100011	300,481
	Total Number of Shares	428,641

Replacement certificates will be issued after the date of the last publication of this notice or upon posting of a bond and/or indemnity to answer for any and all claims of ownership of the said shares on account of the issuance of a duplicate copy of the said stocks certificates. All comments regarding the said certificates of stock must be presented to the Corporation within one (1) year from the date of the last publication of this notice.

ATR-KIA POWER, INC.
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 2011

ASSETS

Investment in Trust Funds	₱ 1,033,109,720.00
Investment in Government Securities	50,000,000.00
Cash on Hand & in Banks	4,783,754.00
Agents' Balances	1,761,000.00
Other Investments	117,000,000.00
Property and Equipment	1,760,541.00
Reinsurers' Share in Reserves	2,000,000.00
Other Assets	21,977,185.00
Total Assets	₱ 1,234,111,200.00

LIABILITIES

Net Legal Reserves	₱ 1,000,000,000.00
Claims Payable	80,000,000.00
Unearned Premium Reserves	99,882,685.00
Reinsurers' Share Payable	153,882,685.00
Commissions Payable	93,117,315.00
Commissions, Bond Premium	52,882,685.00
Accounts / Notes Payable	5,000,000.00
Taxes Payable	2,000,000.00
Other Liabilities	2,000,000.00
Total Liabilities	₱ 1,234,111,200.00

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Paid-up Capital Stock	₱ 100,000,000.00
Additional Paid-in Capital	150,000,000.00
Retained Surplus / Funds:	
Unrealized Reserves - IBT	3,000,000.00
Unrealized Reserves - Trust Funds	15,000,000.00
Unrealized Reserves - Government Securities	2,000,000.00
Retained Earnings	289,138,315.00
Total Stockholders' Equity	559,138,315.00
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity	₱ 1,793,249,515.00

ATR-KIA POWER, INC.
Consolidated Trust Fund Annual Statements
As of December 31, 2011

ASSETS	Education	Trustco	Total
Investment in Trust Funds	₱ 1,033,109,720.00	₱ 1,033,109,720.00	₱ 2,066,219,440.00
Investment in Government Securities	50,000,000.00	50,000,000.00	100,000,000.00
Cash on Hand & in Banks	4,783,754.00	4,783,754.00	9,567,508.00
Agents' Balances	1,761,000.00	1,761,000.00	3,522,000.00
Other Investments	117,000,000.00	117,000,000.00	234,000,000.00
Property and Equipment	1,760,541.00	1,760,541.00	3,521,082.00
Reinsurers' Share in Reserves	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
Other Assets	21,977,185.00	21,977,185.00	43,954,370.00
	₱ 1,234,111,200.00	₱ 1,234,111,200.00	₱ 2,468,222,400.00
LIABILITIES			
Net Legal Reserves	₱ 1,000,000,000.00	₱ 1,000,000,000.00	₱ 2,000,000,000.00
Claims Payable	80,000,000.00	80,000,000.00	160,000,000.00
Unearned Premium Reserves	99,882,685.00	99,882,685.00	199,765,370.00
Reinsurers' Share Payable	153,882,685.00	153,882,685.00	307,765,370.00
Commissions Payable	93,117,315.00	93,117,315.00	186,234,630.00
Commissions, Bond Premium	52,882,685.00	52,882,685.00	105,765,370.00
Accounts / Notes Payable	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	10,000,000.00
Taxes Payable	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
Other Liabilities	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00	4,000,000.00
	₱ 1,234,111,200.00	₱ 1,234,111,200.00	₱ 2,468,222,400.00
FUND EQUITY			
Trust Fund Equity	₱ 1,033,109,720.00	₱ 1,033,109,720.00	₱ 2,066,219,440.00
Retained Earnings / Reserves	200,001,480.00	200,001,480.00	400,002,960.00
	₱ 1,233,111,200.00	₱ 1,233,111,200.00	₱ 2,466,222,400.00
	₱ 1,234,111,200.00	₱ 1,234,111,200.00	₱ 2,468,222,400.00

BUSINESS

Mayors leading agricultural extension work

By Brenda M. Dvilanes

TESTIMONY we talked to a Department of Agriculture (DA) official who said there would be a draft to be circulated this month proposing that mayors lead agricultural extension work.

The move is welcomed by Alyansa Agrikultura, a coalition of 42 federations and organizations representing all major agricultural sectors.

This will be consistent with the Alyansa position that the long-neglected municipal Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zones (AFDZ) mandated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AMAS) will get their deserved importance under Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala.

History

Before the Local Autonomy Code was enacted, the government's 17,000 agricultural extension workers reported to the DA. Since then, all have been reporting to the local government units (LGUs), mostly the mayors.

This is because it is the LGU, not the DA, which is primarily responsible for agricultural development in the countryside.

In many cases, these extension workers perform their agricultural duties well. But in other cases, they are diverted to nonagricultural functions by mayors who have not been oriented nor empowered to take their agricultural responsibilities seriously.

The draft position on the mayor's role in extension work is premised on the AFMA mandate.

According to The Alkas, there are three main groups involved in agricultural extension work.

COMMENTARY

The first is government. This includes the DA, and the state universities and colleges. The second is the private sector. This includes the extension workers of agri-business corporations, feed companies, input suppliers, and even people's organizations and non-government organizations. The third is the local government, composed of governors and mayors.

To the credit of Secretary Alcala and Agriculture Training Institute (ATI) Director Article Inilao, for the first time, extension worker leaders from these three groups were assembled in every region to increase the effectiveness of extension work.

When they met, they jointly determined gaps and overlaps, as well as strengths and weaknesses. They voiced the need for a more cohesive, synergistic, and unified way to deliver extension work.

But even if this is done, a more basic problem has to be solved. What are the priority agriculture needs in a given municipality? More importantly, what is the short- and long-term agricultural plan for that particular municipality?

It was concluded that a good municipal agricultural plan with identified priority needs was missing in most municipalities.

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BUSINESS

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PLDT-GMA 7 decade-long courtship comes to an end

Possible questions over purchase bogged down talks

By Dondi L. Lucas

INQUIRER.net got out early this year that businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan was to talks to acquire GMA Network Inc., a shares of the country's second largest broadcast firm. Immediately shot up with the expectation that the telco executive would pay a big premium for a shot at the lead in the competitive television industry.

As far back as January, GMA 7's stock price surfaced from a sleepy level of P6.70 a share—below its initial public offering price of P8.50 apiece—to peak at P10.90 in July when the rumor mill was in a frenzy about the impending entry of MVP.

Six months after one of the most protracted negotiations in local corporate acquisitions history—and more than a decade after the Ayala-backed tycoon first expressed interest in buying GMA 7—the deal collapsed for good, leaving many market watchers wondering what happened to efforts of the normally deal-savvy Pangilinan.

Several sources interviewed by the Inquirer confirmed part of the official statements issued by both Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and GMA 7. Price was not the deal breaker that scuttled the deal—or more accurately, "price, per se" was not the main point of contention.

First encounter

When Pangilinan first sought to acquire GMA 7 early in the last decade, the owners of the network—the descendants of the Gozon, Duavit and Jimenez families—set an asking price of P12 billion, at that time, the network was just beginning to narrow the television ratings gap with its biggest rival, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., after decades of getaskin as a distant number two in the industry.

One source familiar with the courtship between Pangilinan and GMA 7 said the former had felt that the acquisition price was too high given the network's market standing. Nonetheless, discussions for the deal went ahead and stood a good chance of being consummated when—according to one person with knowledge of the negotiations—financial markets were disrupted by the terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

"All of a sudden, (Pangilinan) found his funders backing out because of the sudden rise in risk around the world," the source said.

The PLDT chief would later say that, on hindsight, the asking price of GMA 7's owners during their first round of negotiations was attractive compared to subsequent prices quoted.

Both parties spoke again a few years ago at an informal level about a potential buy-in at around the same time Pangilinan's rival in the mergers and acquisitions space—the Ayala-led group led by then 5- ling—began talking informally to the owners of GMA 7.

A year later, the network had another name in the form of the Ayala group, but it was Pangilinan who was the more interested, the source said.

That, when formal negotiations resumed in late 2011, Pangilinan came to the table ready with a bid of P80 billion for 40 percent of the network's outstanding capital stock, both in the form of common and preferred shares.

Led by the Gozon and Duavit families, GMA 7 countered with an asking price of P85 billion, and both parties soon met halfway agreeing on a price of P82.5 billion in June of this year.

Lesson learned

According to one person familiar with the negotiations, however, Pangilinan's camp was weighed down by the memory of its recent troubles that came after PLDT's P70-billion acquisition of Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (the operator of the late Gokongwei family's last year.

In the wake of that deal, PLDT was forced by regulators to give up Digital's most prized asset—a coveted 3G frequency—amid accusations by the Ayala group's Globe Telecom Inc. that a merged PLDT-Digital entity would have monopolistic powers detrimental to consumers.

"(Pangilinan) had obviously learned from that mistake, and he was anticipating that the Lopez family (the owners of ABS-CBN) would put up a fight in Congress," said another source familiar with the PLDT group's camp on the issue. "The (PLDT-GMA 7) deal is not saleable to being attached on the franchise issue."

In fact, no less than Pangilinan himself had admitted to reporters that he expected the deal to be questioned by Congress in terms of GMA 7's franchise to operate which, for broadcast firms in general, was non-renewable.

"Fighting for a congressional franchise with national elections approaching would be a challenging undertaking," the source said, adding that Pangilinan's control of Associated Broadcasting Corp.'s TV5 would also expose him to the same "monopoly" criticism leveled against him during the PLDT-Digital deal.

Because of this, the PLDT side had asked its GMA 7 counterpart for several provisions in the prospective deal that would minimize the latter's losses in the event that regulatory pressure arose. In particular, both sides agreed on the concept of a down payment—ahead of the full P82.5-billion payment—which Pangilinan would forfeit if roadblocks made the acquisition of GMA 7 or its merger with TV5 untenable.

"MVP's side was offering a down payment of 3 percent of the total deal as a 'walk away' fee," said a third source, who explained that the amount was rejected by the Gozon-Duavit-Jimenez families as too small—P2.4 billion, to be shared pro rata among the three shareholder groups). "What they wanted was a 'walk away' fee of 10 percent."

'Arena horribilis'

While normally unfazed by steep asking prices, Pangilinan's group was also looking with caution at the simultaneously arena of three with potentially significant financial impacts on the conglomerate.

Apart from the P70-billion deal with the Gokongwei family for Digitel, Pangilinan-controlled Philex Mining Corp. was recently fined by the government to the tune of P1 billion for two accidental leaks of mining waste at its only operating mine (whose operations were also ordered suspended for the rest of the year). Cash-hungry TV5, meanwhile, continues to lose money after reporting a P6.3-billion net loss in 2011.

"Given all these problems, it's not surprising that PLDT found GMA 7's demand a bit steep," the source said.

Several meetings were held over the last few months between both camps in an effort to save the deal, but by this time, the target asking parameters of either side had already firmed up.

"The GMA 7 side was basically saying to the PLDT side: 'We guys came to us. We didn't come offering it to you. Why so many conditions all of a sudden?'" the source explained.

Thus, last week—after over a decade of co-again, off-again negotiations that have sometimes been described as a "lovers' quarrel"—the PLDT-GMA 7 courtship came to an end.

INQUIRER
Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Amid urban bustle, *a serene sanctuary*

Suntrust Shanata

By Charles E. Ocban

It can easily be said that Quezon City, the country's biggest capital, is one of the busiest and most upbeat cities today. It is home to top universities and colleges, the largest shopping malls and leisure establishments, and well-known industrial hubs. Quezon Avenue, in the southeast part of Quezon City, is definitely no exception as it is a major thoroughfare that connects to EDSA and to Mindanao Avenue (which runs two to three streets to the North Luzon Expressway as well as the Edsa-North Avenue) and is surrounded by restaurants and shopping establishments.

With all these activities brewing, it may seem that there can be no space for rest and relaxation in this part of the metropolis. But through its newest premier condominium development Suntrust Shanata, Suntrust Properties, Inc., a subsidiary of property giant Megaworld Corporation, is going to make available a peaceful and convenient lifestyle very different from Quezon City's usual residential mode of living.

"True to its name suggests, Shanata — which is a Sanskrit word for heavenly peace/cheer and quietness — is a perfect offer a spa resort ... Some most people order spas to find relaxation or distraction from the pressures and stresses of daily life, we decided Shanata should also provide a central refuge for its residents," described Suntrust Properties president Atty. Hermenio M. Pellosjan.

Pellosjan stated that within its gates, Shanata promises to make its residents feel that they have completely left the noise and tension of the outside world, as effortlessly as shedding off their work clothes.

Blocking out traffic noise

"Suntrust Properties promises that from the moment the residents pass through Shanata's cascading waterfalls at the entrance gate, they will feel like they have entered a different world. They will be greeted by a splendid avenue of trees dividing a central promenade that cuts through the elevated slope of the land. Moreover, privacy and tranquility are assured as the community is designed to minimize the outside vistas near as well as the traffic noise. This way, homeowners can focus their attention to the lush tropical foliage and the modern Asian-inspired buildings before them," described Pellosjan.

Suntrust Properties has decided to devote 30 percent of Shanata's 3.3-hectare lot area to the cultivation of trees and lush greenery. The amenities area (and all twelve mid-rise clusters) have also been positioned away from the main road to further lessen the impact of the noise and pollution.

Suntrust Shanata is composed of 12 clusters with Sanskrit-inspired names – Alisha (protected), Aman (infinite joy), Dania (calm), Drishti (daughter of the sun), Kanaka (beautiful lily), Mahira (riches), Leora (ray of light), Lovidi (love), Nirav (quiet), Hriyaa (heaven), Sahna (peace) and Serena (serenity). The project offers a total of 1,782 units.

"The advantage of having a low-density residential community like Shanata is that there will be no crowding in the amenities, along corridors and other common areas. The sense of community is maintained, as only a select few will be served," explained Pellosjan.

The clusters are also of varying heights ranging from six, eight, ten to twelve levels. This play of heights gives additional emphasis on the Shalimar Asian design of the project and lends an additional homey character. This also allows for the maximization of natural light and air circulation.

Proud design

Even after successfully completing numerous high-profile subdivisions and five vertical residential communities, Pellosjan is especially proud of Shanata because this would deliver Suntrust's image as the method-market consulting a distinctive Modern Asian concept. He said the modern Asian touch is a perfect design idea for a project like Shanata. "Modern Asian combines the old and the new. Remnants of the Ibaloy tribe's motifs and offers a balcony as well as large windows that provide that roomy feeling and lots of natural light into all areas of the house. Ventilation is excellent, thanks to the modern layout. And with modern materials like concrete and steel, our residents will be assured of a home that lasts for decades," he explained.

Shanata offers studio units with a total floor area of 26.7 square meters, including a 2.2-square meter balcony. Also available are 2-bedroom units with 35 square meters floor area, and

2-bedroom units with 52 square meters. Combination of several units may also be allowed should the buyer opt for a much bigger home space.

First impressions

With Shanata, Suntrust Properties would like to make a good first impression. "We made sure that we will be offering better and bigger units at much more competitive packages. While comparable projects would sell theirs at around P1,000,000 per square meter, we are selling ours at around P60,000. Thus, a 26 sq.m studio would only cost around P1.6 million while a 35 sq.m 2-bedroom unit would only cost around P2 million. We also have several payment options, the most affordable would even allow our buyer to just pay less than P5,000 a month," shared Pallongan.

Because Suntrust Shanata is geared towards providing relaxation and peace of mind to its residents, Suntrust Properties also included a meditation garden as well as a reflexology walking path (which features smooth stones scrubbed on concrete with one edge sticking up or lying flat). This walking path is meant to promote health and blood circulation.

Aside from the clubhouse, Shanata planners will also include a multipurpose hall equipped with gym, function rooms, and spa, a swimming pool with paved sunbathing and pool deck.

"Shanata residents will also enjoy a standby power generator for the common and other selected areas, as well as centralized water tank and underground cistern for continuous water supply," added Pallongan.

Serene sanctuary

"Shanata may seem similar to our current and already completed developments in terms of amenities and features, but what defines this community from the rest is the fact that its design is primarily geared towards providing future residents with a modern and green project feature that would allow them to relax, rejuvenate and re-balance their entire being from the stressful hustle and bustle of city life," presented Pallongan.

Since its inception in 1997, Suntrust has created numerous self-containing residential communities in Dasmariñas, Cavite Trece, and Silang in Cavite, and in Cabanatuan, Laguna. While the company is also slowly making a name for itself in condominium developments around Metro Manila, Pallongan said Suntrust will go on creating unique developments similar to Shanata.

"We are no longer just developers of affordable homes. We have combined well-thought-out designs that focus on space saving and functionality into homes, and formed them into sustainable, master planned communities. We also make sure that we deliver only the highest standard of comfort and style," said Pallongan.

For Pallongan, Shanata would be a strong testament of how far Suntrust Properties has progressed in achieving its objectives. "This year will definitely be very exciting for Suntrust as we lay the groundwork for a successful, high-growth future. Homebuyers can expect Shanata's first two clusters to be turned over in five and three years," added Pallongan.

With this promise, future homeowners need not wait very long to experience the serene and convenient lifestyle that one only be experienced at Suntrust Shanata.

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BUSINESS

BTr cancels auctions for Treasury bills, bonds

By Konrad W. Dorotan

THE BUREAU of Treasury has canceled auctions for P7.5 billion worth of treasury bills and P9 billion worth of regular seven-year bonds that were scheduled for the next two weeks, amid strong demand for small treasury bonds (RTBs) currently on offer.

Deputy Treasurer Edwardo S. Mendiola said in a notice to dealers of government securities the cancellations were "in view of the ongoing 25-year peso-denominated (PDEx) public offering (until Oct. 22), and to ensure a smooth and orderly settlement of the retail issue."

The auctions for T-bills was originally scheduled for Oct. 15 and that for the seven-years for Oct. 23.

Before that, an auction for regular five-years slated for Oct. 9 was also canceled to give way to the RTBs.

Assuming that the BTr would have raised the full amount offered for these three auctions, the combined proceeds—P23.5 billion—is still much lower than the P62.088 billion raised in the price-setting auction for the RTBs last Tuesday.

On Tuesday, the BTr awarded RTBs worth more than twice its original offer of P15 billion.

Mendiola said in an interview that for the latest batch of RTBs—the 16th so far—the BTr is willing to award as much as P200 billion, as long as there is demand.

Last Tuesday, bids from 23 out of 36 eligible dealers of government securities were accepted.

Selling agents that qualified include Allied Banking Corp., ANZ Banking Group, BDO Capital and Investment Corp., Banco de Oro Universal Bank, BPI Capital and Investment Corp., Citibank NA, Deutsche Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Eastwest Banking Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., HSBC, ING Bank, Landbank of the Philippines, Maybank Philippines Inc., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Philippine National Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Security Bank Corp., Standard Chartered Bank, Sterling Bank of Asia, and Union Bank of the Philippines.

SHOWCASE FOR AGRICULTURE
Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (middle) and Bukidnon indigenous tribesmen Martin Kiga and Montillo Bajao proudly show their harvest of coffee beans during the annual farmers' field day and technology forum at the Northern Mindanao Integrated Agricultural Research Center (Namiarc), in Dalwangan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

Philex mulling over options on Padcal mining resumption

By Kaa T. Chikiamco

PHILEX Mining Corp. is studying ways to restart operations at the Padcal copper-gold mine in Benguet, including erecting or enlarging tailings pond with a plugged drain and/or creating a new tailings dam, officials said.

The mining giant may retain the existing tailings dam with a spillway constructed out of its drains (which was breached on Aug. 1 amid heavy rains) plugged, Philex vice president for operations and Padcal mine resident manager Libby Bocaler said yesterday in a briefing.

"The factors that we can resume operations of the mine is to use tailings pond No. 3 (TPE3)," said Bocaler.

The recommissioned TPE3 can be used for three to four years, during which a new tailings pond may be built, he said.

Assuming that all remedial measures are completed early next year and the government allows operations to resume, the Padcal mine can again start operations within the second half of 2013.

However, Philex has yet to submit a proposal to the government and there is no definite target date for resumption, said Philex senior vice president for corporate affairs Michael Toledo.

Besides reviewing options for resumption, the Philippine miner is also grappling with penalties imposed by the government for violations of The Mining Act and environmental laws in relation to the tailings spill.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau received on Wednesday the response of PMC on the P1.024 billion in penalties imposed for violation of the Mining Act for water and settlements spilled from TPE.

Jesamyn has declined to comment on the latter penalty pending evaluation. Toledo, however, said that in the letter, Philex maintained that it should not be made to pay the fines because the incident was caused by force majeure.

DOE considering one-stop shop for biofuels investors

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is considering putting up a one-stop shop that will facilitate the entry of local and foreign investors in the country's biofuels industry.

This move is supposed to encourage investment to put up ethanol production facilities in particular, to serve the growing demands of the local market, said Energy Undersecretary Jose M. Layug Jr.

The country has three accredited bioethanol production plants with a combined annual capacity of 70 million liters. These three, however, serve only a fraction of the estimated annual demand of 600 million liters, Layug said.

According to Layug, a bioethanol plant in Isabela, which runs up by Green Future Innovations, has been completed but is still going through the DOE accreditation process. This facility has a production capacity of 54 million liters.

The DOE also hopes that the issuance of a circular in December last year will help boost investments in the local energy sector.

The circular contained provisions to ensure that all the ethanol produced in the country will be purchased prior to the importation of the much cheaper ethanol.

It likewise appointed the National Biofuels Board to establish a monthly price index for bioethanol every first day of the month based on data from the Sugar Regulatory Administration and Department of Agriculture to determine the reasonableness of the price of locally produced bioethanol."

The DOE is drafting a revised biofuel program to increase by 2030 the blend of ethanol in gasoline to 20 percent (E20) from the current 10 percent, and of coconut methyl ester (CME) in diesel products to 10 percent (B10) from the current 2 percent.

BDO, BPI keen on rollout of exchange-traded funds

By Doris C. Dumlao

TWO of the country's largest banks have expressed interest in rolling out the country's first exchange-traded funds (ETFs), the policy framework for which is being finalized by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Banco de Oro Unibank and Bank of the Philippine Islands are the two interested sponsors of ETFs, products which should complement equity-based funds, SEC Commissioner Juanita Guerz said in a briefing last Tuesday.

She said the final framework for ETFs—a mutual fund-like asset class that the Philippine Stock Exchange wants to add to its product lineup—was set for en banc discussion Thursday.

Guerz said the private sector had found ways to make the ETFs work despite tax concerns.

SEC Chair Teresita Herbosa said the corporate watchdog would finish the framework in line with the target of the PSE to launch this new product before yearend.

ETF is a financial instrument that tracks an index, a commodity or a basket of assets like an index fund. Since it trades like a stock on an exchange, its net asset value (NAV) is not calculated every day but is usually traded close to its NAV.

This instrument thus offers public investors or individual investors a pool of securities and other assets and thus are similar in many ways to traditional mutual funds, except that shares in an ETF can be bought and sold throughout the day—like stocks on an exchange—through a broker-dealer.

The proposed rules and regulations on ETF classify this as a new investment product, which is similar in a mutual fund but has distinct characteristics.

The first ETFs were introduced in the US in the early 1990s and these held a basket of securities that replicated the components securities of broad-based stock market indexes, such as the S&P 500.

GLOBAL AWARD FOR MERALCO
Meralco, together with Orga Systems, was recently presented with the global innovation award given by Global Telecoms Business (GTB) magazine in London for "Smart Grid Infrastructure Innovation." GTB Awards recognizes service providers who have come up with new and innovative products and services as well as those who have implemented cutting-edge systems that revolutionize the industry. Meralco and Orga Systems won the award in the "Business Service Innovation" category for UPGrid, a suite of software solutions for energy providers. Photo shows Meralco Chairman Jose C. Fanlo (far foreground, left) receiving the plaque from Orga Systems Vice President for Asia Pacific David E. Hacke (center). Meralco President and Chief Executive Officer Oscar S. Reyes (right) likewise graced the affair with other top officials from Meralco and Orga Systems (background, from left): Meralco Vice President and Marketing, Customer Solutions and Innovations Head Jose Antonio T. Velilet; Orga Systems Director of International Business Development Glenn P. Subaveria; Meralco Vice President and Chief Information Officer Marilyn S. Cruz; Meralco Senior Assistant Vice President and Information and Communications Technology Planning Head Jean Carlo S. Canete; Meralco Vice President and Network Asset Management Head Nilo C. Pino; and Meralco Executive Vice President and Networks Head Ricardo V. Buenaventura.

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Cary Santiago: 'I know what people expect'

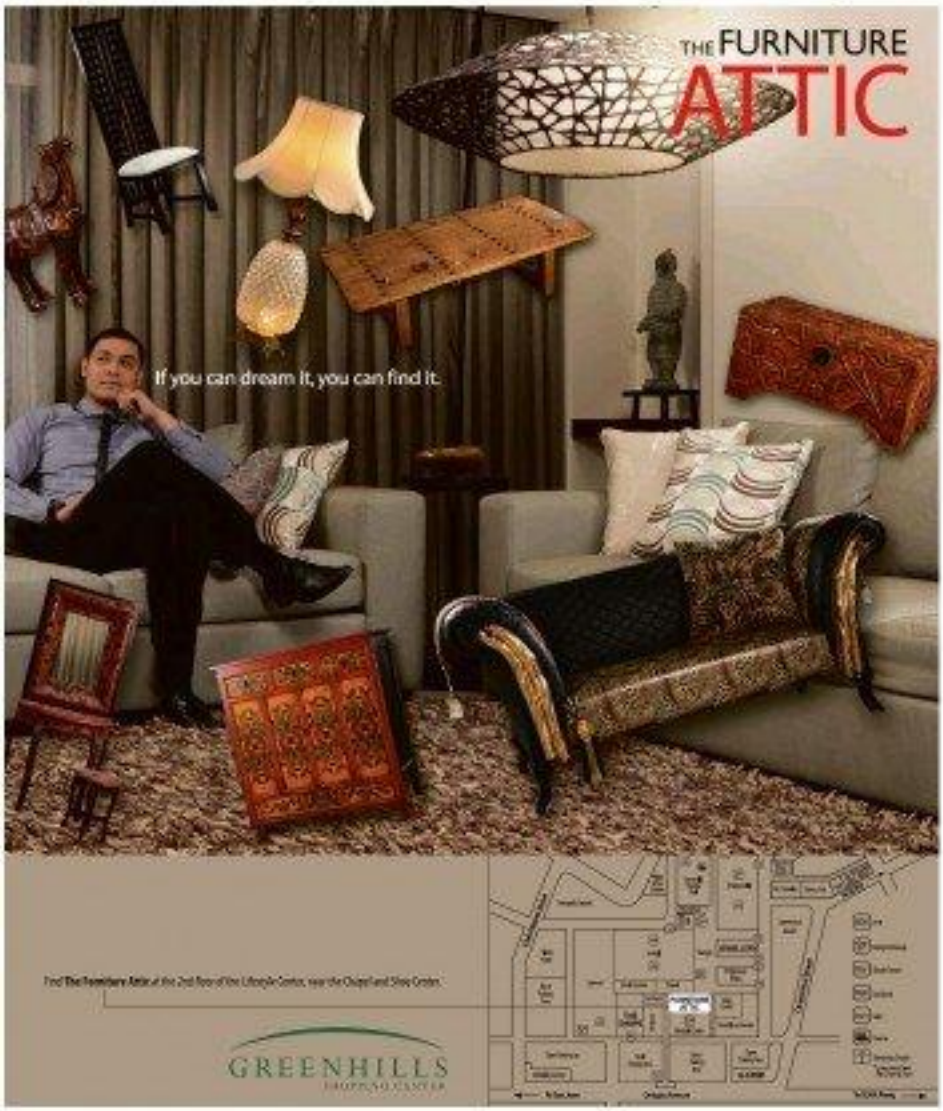
By Cheche V. Moral

CARY SANTIAGO doesn't play coy when he says he's taking seriously the expected comparisons between Jean, Jeanne Gaultier and Michael Cinco, as he prepares for his Red Charity Gala collection.

"They are friendly," he answers on the phone from Cebu, just days before his gala show.

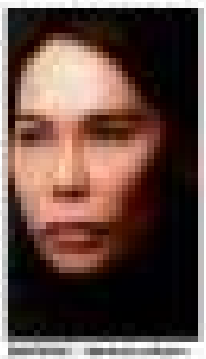
Santiago is the featured designer in tomorrow night's Red Charity

CARY SA



Cary Santiago: 'I know what people expect'

In tomorrow's Red Charity Gala, the famous Cebu designer says he's ready to be compared with Oscar and Ghesa



A MISSONI HOME MASTERPIECE RISES IN MANILA

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9:30PM

9:54AM

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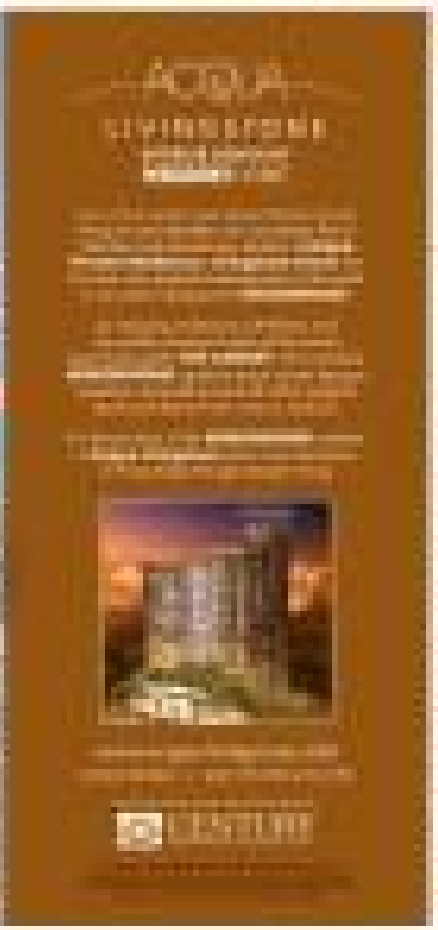

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LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

BB? It's a serum, moisturizer, foundation, sunblock and primer all in one

My tried-and-tested answer to what BB cream one should get: Becca

I WAS CAUGHT by surprise when, after a meeting, I was asked by a colleague what a BB cream was and what brand she should get. I presumed most girls knew about it, especially since many cosmetic brands have come out with their own BB creams.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

BB, or beauty balm, is an all-in-one facial product that acts as a serum, moisturizer, foundation, sunblock and primer. I was first introduced to this when we were away in Korea over a year ago. Apparently, this was the secret to Korean celebrities' porcelain-like complexion.

I wasn't sold on this cream at first. When I tried it, I felt it was too thick, instead of looking dewy, I looked sticky. I remember asking for makeup removers after I would receive BB creams from different brands, but I didn't even try them and just give them away.

Fave brand

About a month ago, I wasn't able to replenish my foundation; that's when I found Becca Mineral Tint SPF30+ among my stash. Although I consider Becca one of my fave brands (its Luxe Sheer Foundation palette and beach tints are must-haves), when I read that the product was a high-performance foundation, I knew it was a beauty balm.

I nervously applied the product, and—guess what?—I was so happy with the results.

Most up-to-date BB cream superstars, I have stuck to my beauty routine—moisturizer, apply SPF, then foundation. But now, with Becca's Mineral Tint SPF30+—an ultra-lightweight loose (powder) moisturizer—I felt like I wasn't wearing anything, though my skin was reaping all the benefits of a BB cream! So that's my tried-and-tested answer to what BB cream one should get: Becca.

ARMANI Code Luxe

For those who are still using SPF and foundation separately and for those who are in need of a fresh change in beauty products, here's one I can vouch for. It is available in three tinted shades: light, medium and rose.

Becca's Mineral Tint SPF30+ foundation says it offers high-level protection against UVA and UVB rays, thanks to Mexoryl (for UVAs, a highly effective sunscreen) SPF ingredients. Because of Becca's own zinc oxide-based formulation, the cream is extremely lightweight and doesn't feel like it sits on your skin; rather, it becomes like second skin in texture.

I use it alone or with makeup, and it makes my skin look flawless. This product is available for all skin types—yes, even if you have oily skin.

ARMANI Sport Code

Laura Mercier bath and body line

I think the best way to relax is to take a long bath, or even a few minutes without any interruption. I have to tell everyone to advance that I need a break and not to knock on the door for anything.

And then I indulge with Laura Mercier's bath and body line. My personal pick is vanilla. I use the bath, gel and lotion, and I smell amazing until the next day. I know that layering is the best way to keep the scent long-lasting, but sometimes it's just not possible. So when I need to de-stress, Laura Mercier's body and bath line is my remedy. For those who think perfumes need a break, this would make the perfect gift. Men also love the smell of vanilla.

Holiday picks

Speaking of giving, Christmas is just around the corner, and for those who have friends or nieces who love making, check out Stila's holiday offerings. What I love most about this brand is, it is reasonably priced and packaged well.

BATH gel

STILA holiday palettes

VELVET HAVEN Becca Mineral Tint SPF30+ Sunscreen promises a more even complexion. Available at Adora.

For your mani, you may want to check out Giorgio Armani. My husband loves the scent of Armani Sport Code, and he also complimented me when I used Armani Code Luna.

How to make your hair grow faster

Sadly, there is no fast or easy way to do it

I HAVE A BEAUTY question: how do I make my hair grow faster than the usual growth?—Rose

We've all request, cursed it, we decide on a whim to get a shorter, sleeker hairdo. Then after a week of "feeling out" this new hairstyle, we realise we want our old hair back.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Kelly Hicks

We immediately regret having cut this short. So we count the days until our hair grows back into its old length. But now that we'll take a while (a couple of years for some), so in the meantime we desperately search for ways to speed up our hair growth.

Sadly, there is no fast or easy way to do it but we do get it out. Hair has a growth cycle that almost never changes in most cases, decade 0.5 to 1 centimetre per month. And yes, we've heard many claims that promise to add length to your tresses, and while some may appear to work, others are simply myths.

Hair myths

Let's extend some of the most popular "tried-and-tested" beauty advice:

Cutting your hair will make it grow back faster. This is definitely not true, but it makes sense if you think about it. Getting the regular trims still has its advantages as it prevents dryness and split-ends. Remember, the tips of our hair are the oldest part of the hair shaft, so getting regular trims are necessary for hair to feel lighter and look healthier.

Getting scalp massages stimulates hair growth. There is some truth to this, as blood circulations indeed helps hair grow. But we can't really expect substantial improvements in this case only. Scalp massages will help hair grow by 10 percent, which isn't much. But I'm sure most of us are willing to take it.

Getting regular hair spas will do the trick, or you may do it at home while your shampoo and conditioner your hair.

Taking hair vitamins will speed up hair's growth. We've seen these hair vitamins in health food stores. A lot of people seem to be happy with the results, but again, there is only no significant change in hair growth.

What these vitamins actually do is to help us retain hair strength, which also makes sense because the stronger your hair, the less prone it is to breakage, and it gets longer quicker. If you do decide to give that a try, look for vitamins that contain vitamin B and antioxidants. These really give hair the right dose it needs.

Got a beauty question? E-mail the author at ask.dot.lynn@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @dotlynnn, and see her blog lynnyma.tumblr.com

IS IT really possible to speed up your hair growth? www.ITS.COM

COMME Des Garcons No. 2

REMEDIST lotion

AVEDA shampoo

MARTIN Margiela

RHETT EALA

This time, men's couture from Rhett Eala

Sequins on a sweatshirt and spikes on a tux, for starters

RHETT EALA is best known for his "fashionalism"—the iconic "My Philippines" Collections line that aroused nationalist pride and was worn by every proud Filipina from TV news anchorwomen to even campaigning politicians.

After 20 years in fashion, Eala is venturing into men's fashion with his eponymous, Rhett by Rhett Eala.

I decided to create my men's label because I felt like doing a different take on men's clothes. More "couture," like putting sequins on a sweatshirt and spikes on a tux.

A label, I'm referred only now is: mad silk from China, because it looks like leather but feels like silk.

My favorite color palette for the season is... cobalt blue and indigo. I've been framed as Dean for most Bain a year now. The colors can look masculine and strong.

If there is any valuable lesson I've learned as a designer, it's to learn from my mistakes, work hard and always give 100 percent.

Celebrities I love dressing up are... Celine Lopez, because she doesn't take fashion too seriously, and James and Phil Youngblood, because they are elegant young men.

If I could collaborate with another designer abroad, it would have to be... Hiroto Margiela or Helmut Lang, because I'm a minimalist at heart.

A lavish product I love, but can't get here is... Anada rosemary mint shampoo.

My signature scent is the Alle man... Hale by Ralph Lauren.

The products I have on my dresser right now are... Jo Malone Orange Blossom and Comme Des Garcons No. 2.

The only hair stylist Thal can cut my hair is... Pierre Calaylay, because he's my Mother Hen.

When it comes to Eala's products... I like using our new products all the time.

When travelling, my toiletry essentials are... Oil B Bonkli Glow, Bioll's Bees Lip Balm with Mango Butter, Dolce Intelligente, Aveda rosemary mint shampoo, MIN Grapeseed Jojoba and Aloe Butter Body Cream.

Rhett by Rhett Eala is available at Rust, 40 Jupiter St., and Ale Mahon City. You can follow Rhett at Twitter with the handle @rhett1888.

Whether you want a new look or just a short Asia, visit Eala's trusted hair specialist, Rhett Calaraig, at G/F The Residences at Greenhill, A Avenue Ave. Ortigas Brandi, San Juanico, Makati City. Call +63(02)-9181880, +63(2)-7993405, +63(2)-7993406. Operating hours: Monday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-8 p.m.

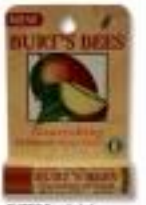
BACKSTAGE PASS

Isabel Hoces

HELMUT Lang

POLO by Ralph Lauren

Dalle Whitestrips



BURT'S Bees lip balm

How to get Marilyn Monroe's come-hither eyes and lush lips

POLISH

MAKEOVER 911

Kimmy Salon

WHEREAS OTHER cosmetic brands launch a collection roughly every three months, MAC does so every month.

The month's celebrity-influenced collection is Marilyn Monroe, the classic blond sex goddess. It's not practical to splurge on that entire collection, so I cut my choices down by focusing on products that would up, prominent Marilyn eyes-lashes, lush lid, and rosy red lips.

My picks: Fourth-tone Eyeliner in Knightstick. It has the perfect applicator tip, so it is possible for even a child with moody hands to draw a precise skinny line on the upper lash line and control the darkness, to continue Marilyn's bedroom eyes look.

Danale Glass in Phill is a sheer yellow peach frost with microscopic gold shimmer. It gives a magnificent sheen and dainty shine. A boost of fullness to the lips. The effect is like a magnifying glass for lips, whether used alone or on top of red pucker, for that sexy-good dewy look.

The rest of the collection includes three shades of nude for lips and nails. The dramatic nail polish comes in deep wine, which our skin color-ing can effortlessly carry.

The eyeshadows come in pale highlighting colors: soft white (Fluo in Blanco), champagne beige (Perfected Blonde), silver cream and dark blue grey (Shwarpit), all designed to be worn with heavy eyeliner for the upper lids, as well as the false lashes/liner system (Mink mascara).

For the cheeks, there are subtle flushes in shades of soft coral (Lightdriver) and pink beige (Her Perfect Cheeks), so they do not clash or compete with lips and eyes.

Among local brands, Bianca Serrano Cosmetics is the brand where it comes to great quality, elegant packaging and pocket-friendly prices. I have friends abroad who order them for Christmas to give to friends or office-mates.

There are no generous-sized eyeshadows, a Quad palette and two BB creams. The total cost is the price of one prestige brand lipstick or foundation.

Yael

FS BB Cream

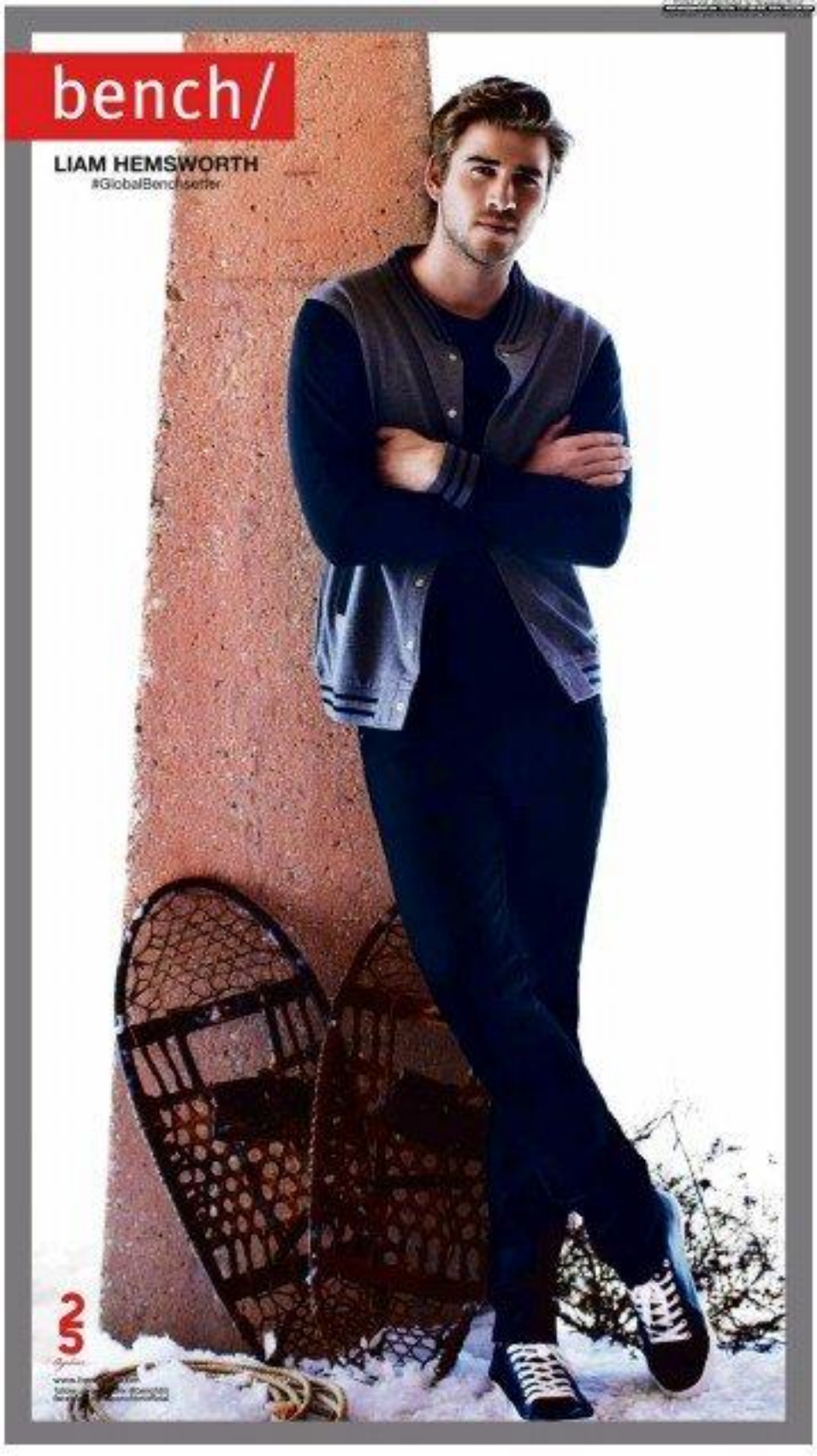
Korean BB creams are meant for colder weather, so most Filipinas who try them complain about how oily their face becomes after an hour or so.

But the FS BB Cream claims right in and cream-ready blends with the skin tone. It serves as foundation, concealer, moisturizer and UV protection, has a matte finish and does not feel greasy, heavy or get cakey over time.

There are two shades that suit most complexions, enjoyed the rosy dark. Other of the younger yellow tones, while mentor has more pink blended in. Designed to survive the tropics, the cream reminds me of Pressed-on-Powder foundation in texture and feel.

Great skin would require a face powder touch-up more frequently, for most skin types. I recommend Watsons' Face Beauty Face Powder with SPF 10, or Rimmel's 60 White SPF 10 Face powder.

The eyeshadows in Black Frost and Mahogany Mink can be used as eyeliner and eyeshadow color; they're sweat- and oil-resistant. Nude Blush is a pinky-toned shade that looks fantastic when mixed with browns or grey, but I love it best as blush, as it is a cross between NARS' Torrid and Amour as a function of the price. I carry the palette around, so my eyes and cheeks are covered in one pod.


bench/
LIAM HEMSWORTH
#GlobalBenchSetter

Power women, working moms, artists, celebrities—the right bag for each

By Anna Go-Chio
Lifestyle

FINDING THE perfect bag is as daunting as it is exhilarating and fulfilling. Your bag implies so much about your personality, your character and your style that the passion to find the right bag can be somewhat extensive.

Narrow down your ideal bag by understanding and combing your daily needs and essentials. We categorized our top five favorite bags according to lifestyle.

CHANEL Mini

CELINE Phantom

FENDI Zucca

Fendi Zucca Bag

Stylish socialites like Olivia Palermo and Sarah Jessica Parker have been spotted carrying Fendi's latest gem, decreed as the next "it" bag. The Fendi Zucca features a structured look, highlighted by a leather hanging where you have the preference to place it wherever most of your tastes include. Understated and elegant, the bag just screams style and sophistication.

Pros: The Fendi Zucca looks polished and elegant, and is durably adjustable any ensemble. This bag is every bit as sophisticated as it is versatile, as it will match your every look.

Cons: If you decide to monogram your initials on your Fendi Zucca, it would be difficult, if not impossible to resell your bag. If you are in the business of reselling bags once you get bored with it, this should be a matter to consider.

The Fendi Zucca is an ideal bag for the fast-paced career girl—constantly on the go, and with endless meetings and appointments. Fendi's Zucca is perfect for bankers, socialites, corporate managers, financial analysts, fund managers and businesswomen. For it's Zucca would also suit ladies who lunch—socialites who take great care of their appearance and look.

(Available at Rustan's Makati.)

Celine Phantom

The Celine Phantom is intriguing and extremely striking. Effortless and unobtrusive, the Celine Phantom is quite the diva accessory. This wearable bag is spacious, characterized by a sweeping bag appearance.

Pros: The Celine Phantom is gorgeous in design, and is quite useful as it is practical. The casual feel of this bag makes it easy and uncomplicated, without compromising on style and flair.

Cons: The construction of this bag is quite detailed, making it bulky and heavy, even without anything in it. This shoulder bag is a problem, however, if your mantra in life is fashion over comfort at all costs.

The glitz and glamour of this bag makes it perfect for the actresses in the fashion industry. We see Celine's Phantom toted by PR mavens, magazine editors, models/influencers, retail store buyers, fashion writers and stylists.

Chanel Maxi

A Chanel bag signifies sophisticated grace. The Chanel Maxi's size is roomy enough for your day-to-day basic essentials—brush, makeup kit, wallet, etc.

Pros: You really can't go wrong with a Chanel bag, and the Maxi bag would be useful as an everyday bag. If you have a fondness for investing, know that the Chanel bag appreciates in value every year. Talk about value for money.

Cons: It's really quite pricey because of the class and refinement the brand signifies. But, as mentioned, it's an asset, and with proper care, will last you a lifetime.

The Chanel Maxi would suit high profile professionals and executives. The status and the price of a Chanel Maxi are ideal for politicians, business owners, celebrities, lawyers, doctors and investment bankers.

YSL Chyc Cabas

PROENZA Schouler

Proenza Schouler

For a blunt and effortless air, the Proenza Schouler is a good choice. It may have a structured design, but this bag still gives a cool and easy feel to your look. While the style might look casual and young, matching the bag with a dressy look would not only be unusual but certainly striking.

Definitely a versatile bag, the PS1 matches a wide array of looks, from T-shirts and jeans, to stylish dresses. The leather is soft and supple; but this is the kind of bag that does not call for constant upkeep. The more you wear it, the more wear-out it looks, which adds character and flavor to the design. The messenger look of it makes it adaptable to your closet and personality.

Pros: The PS1 features several compartments, making this bag very practical and useful. If you tend to be disorganized, this bag will serve its purpose.

Cons: Given all its compartments, you might find it challenging to rummage through your cute bag when you are in a rush to find something.

The Proenza Schouler would complement artists in the multimedia arena such as book illustrators, film animators, filmmakers and graphic designers, and also fine art enthusiasts such as painters, sculptors and writers.

YSL Chyc Cabas

My ultimate bag crush is the YSL Chyc Cabas. There's something about the look, the structure and how it rolls on a woman's arm that makes it so appealing to me. Its structure gives it a prim sophistication without appearing severe or stricken in any way.

This spacious tote has been worn on glamorous celebrities such as Gemma Miller, Leighton Meester, Nicole Richie, Salma Hayek and Heather Thomas.

Pros: The Chyc Cabas is roomy and with compartments, making it functional for your day-to-day activities and pursuits. The style is versatile—structured enough for work...and fashionable enough for your other endeavors.

Cons: In my personal experience, the Chyc Cabas is rather heavy. However, this is not a setback for me as I am able to carry my daily essentials due to its size and construction.

The Chyc Cabas is suitable for women on the go...those who travel a lot, working moms who are handling and active. It is also a perfect fit for architects, interior designers and other professionals who need to bring with them documents and plans.

EVERY SHADE OF YOU

This year, we once again stick to 100% extra fine merino wool, which provides extra softness. For your picking pleasure, we've turned it into 10 colorful palettes. To make the color as brilliant as possible, we dye the raw wool before being spun into yarn. We've also secretly inserted stretching cotton thread into the ribs to make it look new after multiple washings. Have your choice between crew neck, V-neck and cardigan styles.

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

UK designer uses recycled plastic, rubber in Look of Style Awards 2012 show

HOODED jacket from Jane Bowler's Autumn/Winter 2012-2013 collection

By Carmencita S. Simon

Jane Bowler to show how to go eco-chic

"I LOVE materials! They're always the starting point for all my collections," says Jane Bowler, who graduated from the Royal College of Art in London.

Though she always loved art school, she rejected the idea of becoming a fashion designer. It wasn't until a fashion design company approached her that she began to consider a fashion career.

"I realized that my design aesthetic and ways of working could achieve a unique approach to fashion design," went Bowler.

Bowler will present her collection of sustainable fashion designs in the Look of Style Awards 2012, to be staged by Look Magazine, Inquirer Lifestyle, and the British Council on Nov. 6.

This is the third year that the Look of Style Awards is staged. Like the previous winners Bobbi Caballeg and Ced Gonzales, the 2012 winning designer will have an all-expenses paid trip to London where he/she will enjoy a short course of his/her choice at the renowned Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. This is under the auspices of the British Council.

The winner will also be included in the Inquirer Lifestyle and Look

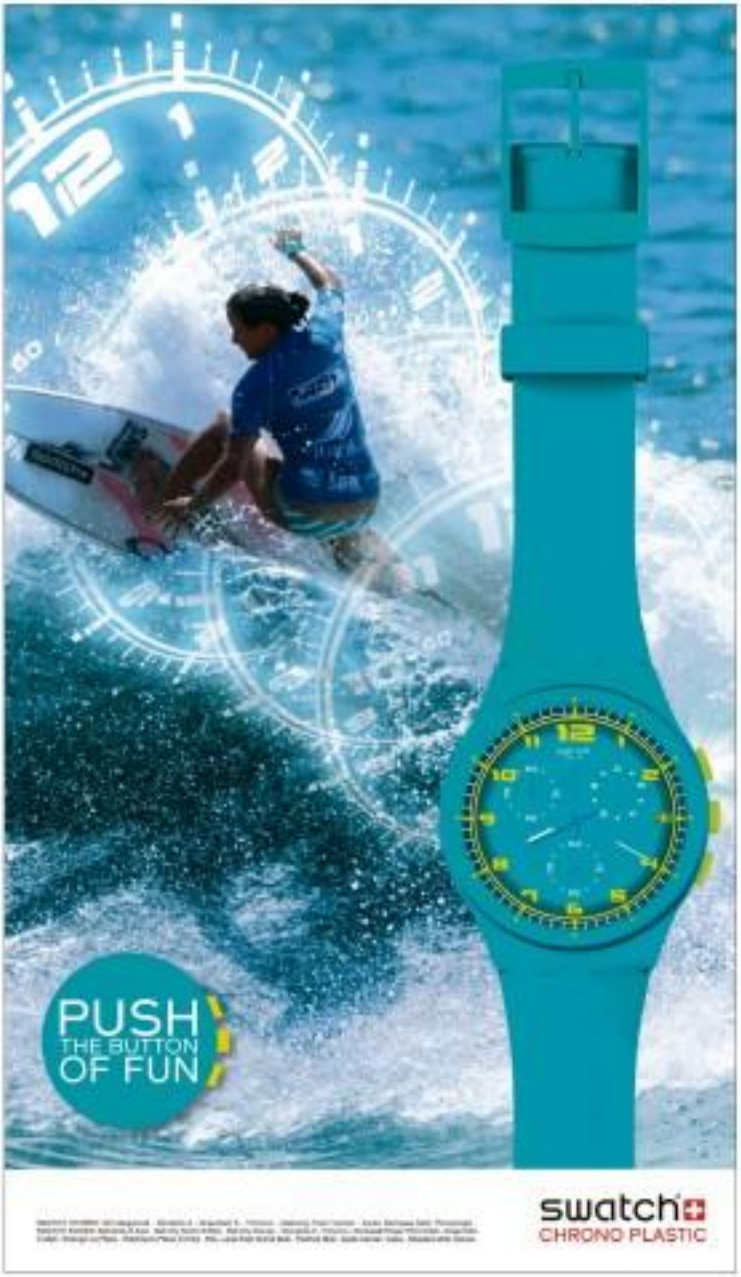
GO TO SECTION E2

MUST-HAVE SWATCH CHRONO PLASTIC

Measure your speed.

Measure the speed Base 100 or 1000 m. Press...
1. The upper push-button when an action starts.
2. Once again to stop after a distance of 100 or 1000 m. Read the speed indicated by the 60 seconds counter on the tachymeter scale (km/h = spin).
3. The lower push-button to reset.

The Swatch Chrono Plastic Collection comes in 10 colors at Swatch Stores and Swatch Kiosks.



UK designer uses recycled plastic, rubber in Look of Style Awards 2012 show

JANE Bowler

ACCESSORIES from her Spring/Summer 2013 collection boast negligible ecological materials

Magazine. The winner will also receive business mentoring from fashion industry professionals.

Following this year's theme of Eco Chic, Bowler will have elaborate clothes made of plastic and other unusual materials. Her use of bold colors also adds a playful edge to embellished pieces.

"I have always enjoyed the process of transforming discussions or discarded materials into sophisticated garments," says Bowler. "Then seeing the look on people's faces when you tell them it's made from a classic curtain or a bathmat!"

"I love playing with materials and experimenting with different fabric shapes," she says. "It's such an organic process and an exciting way to work."

(Perhaps her penchant for saving swords, popcorn and ice cream helps her come up with bright ideas?)

In London Fashion Week's "Hors Piscine" Spring/Summer 2013 show, she featured bathing suits and sheer mini dresses with an old-Hollywood appeal.

Through the usually messy to her favorite materials (plastic and rubber), she creates different textures through knitting, dip-dying, fusing and bonding.

When asked what her label's trademark is, she says: "Pushing the limits of unconventional materials."

Through her's unobtrusive use of materials in fashion, she admits that it's difficult to create a garment in a completely eco-friendly way.

"It can bring up a great deal of problems in terms of production and sourcing, so you need to get more of a understand as to practical solving," notes Bowler. "You can sometimes hinder your design ideas or it's important to effectively keep things balanced."

To promote this cause, she has set up workshops for students and creative people who wish to learn about materials and processes, "showing fashion and textiles in a new light."

She says "boundaries, it's the little things that can make a big difference."

Also showcasing their sustainable fashion designs are this year's Look of Style Awards finalists—Cebuanos Mike Ingcong, Rissa Coquilla and Rey Villegas, Irene Garcia, Irene Raboteau, Steven "Ivan" Tampo and Jan Sellars, and Iwan Mendiz, Maria Bonnell, Roland Alcuitz, Normann Story and Bianca Pernia.

For more of Jane Bowler's designs or news, janebowler.co.uk.

GOLD fringed top from her Summer/Winter 2012-2013 collection; at left, navy lace dress from her Spring/Summer 2012 collection dubbed "Fall from Grace"

How Germany helped shape Kenneth Cobonpue

With a penchant for all things German, the world-famous designer has collaborated with a German intern to conceptualize the Phoenix Bamboo car

MARKING GERMANY celebrates the partnership between Germany and the Philippines in its annual event organized by the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries Inc. (GPCCI).

Now on its fifth year, with the theme "Stay Normal! + More Fun," Definitely Germany 2012 demonstrates the German community's commitment to promote a better life for Filipinos through German opportunities, products, services, culture and influences.

With more than 140 years of presence in the country, Germany, with its strong relationship with the Philippines, has opened opportunities for Filipinos. Among them is the ingenious designer Kenneth Cobonpue who is winning world recognition.

When he was just 15, Kenneth's mother, Betty Cobonpue, a furniture designer known for her stellar techniques, brought him to Rosenheim, Germany's largest trade fair organizer. She was an exhibitor.

To those years overwhelmed him but then, and his subsequent visits to other international exhibitions, made him understand how the furniture market evolved over the years. He began to emulate the big brands that he admired as a young teen.

His early exposure to his mother's manufacturing operations taught him the value of originality and exquisite craftsmanship. Two years which defined his brand today. "I learned never to give up on what I believe to be a good design, even making commercial success," he said.

Cobonpue graduated with a degree in Industrial Design from Pratt Institute in New York, and apprenticed in a leather and wood workshop in Italy while working for his degree.

In 1994, he was back in Cebu, under a scholarship program involving Furniture Marketing and Production at the Export Academy Baden-Württemberg in Reutlingen, and then on to work in Frankfurt and Munich.

When asked how his experiences in Germany helped shape his design career, Kenneth said:

"My experiences in Germany helped me in two ways. Just living in Germany and Europe was an invaluable exposure that honed my aesthetics, and culturally I learned so much about humanism."

"After my stay in Germany, I went back home and modernized my mother's old factory. I bought a lot of machines in Europe, and applied the same system and organization to everything I do. It was a rich and incredible experience that definitely encouraged me to go into brand development."

He attributes his understanding of Asian to the beauty of the Philippines and to his studies in the US and Europe. "That's why I work three-dimensionally whenever possible, right from the beginning, which is probable why my pieces have a very sculptural feel to them," Cobonpue said.

He compared his material selection and experimentation with that of a carpenter with his fabric. "One of the remarkable aspects about working with natural materials is their inherent uniqueness: wood characters and beauty, which I try to use to best advantage in every piece," he said.

Opting to work mostly with rattan not only because of its availability and sustainability, but also because of its strength and malleable nature, Cobonpue has mastered the use of natural fibers and other local materials, whose natural characteristics help define his designs, especially in indoor pieces. "There is such a wealth of options in Cebu, and I'm always researching and experimenting with different materials," he said.

RAPUNZEL sofa (also shown below)

LOLAH capsule

CAPSULE daybed

CABARETTE

His inspirations, from locations to fairs, abound. They all provide unique challenges and benefits.

"I usually labor about a year for his designs to come into fruition, he said. Production does not constitute solid there are multiple full-scale mockups. From prototyping to final revision. The process continues until the collection is perfected and finally captures his original concept.

Phoenix

In 2011, Cobonpue's interest in transportation and desire to challenge conventional thinking on that front produced one of his most innovative and dynamic collaborations pieces, the Phoenix Bamboo Car.

"I believe that everything has a natural and sustainable solution, and reminds that road I've designed a bamboo and carbon fiber car intended to run on electricity," he said.

"The draft is known by hand, and takes 10 days to build," Cobonpue explained. "Most cars, of course, are enormous environmental pollutants beginning with their production cycle and on to their continued use. The shell of Phoenix has a lightweight structure that took very minimal energy to build, and is also biodegradable, being made of bamboo."

His thought that it would be wise to challenge Alfonso de Bolinao—a talented, polyglot and innovative German product designer who made his way to Cebu, to do an internship with him, working on the car.

"We had a tight deadline with the Phoenix but we managed to build it in 10 days with him working overtime and even on holidays. It was a great experience for both of us."

Cobonpue's newest design is an ecological yet very luxurious bicycle created from aluminum and recycled polyethylene which he hopes to roam out with a production model of.

From the sections he has been getting here and abroad, Cobonpue has managed to remain current and innovative. His love of nature, he said, drives him to preserve the heritage of craftsmanship in the Philippines.

"I think the purity of craft somehow humanizes all of us and reminds us of the splendor of the human spirit and the grace of creativity, and it continually inspires me to pursue design," he said. "I also want to continue my efforts to show the world that there is an environment-friendly solution to everything we do, and that we don't have to look far to find it."

He hopes to inspire other aspiring designers.

"Whenever I started branding, I didn't have a model to follow, so I made my own mistakes," he said. "I hope to teach other people everything I have learned so they can go even further. That's my dream for other Filipino designers."

German alumni group

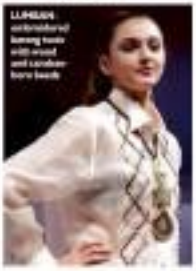
He is a member of the Carl Duisberg Association of the Philippines (CDAP), an association of former scholars to Germany.

"We support an upholstery weaving center that was subject of a study to find its current German NGOs, and it has been a success," he said. "We trained out-of-school youth to work in upholstery and sewing and gave them an immediate means of income while teaching them values and good work ethic."

He teaches Industrial Design at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Dita Sandico Ong to unveil Mangyan-inspired collection in Citem fair

The designer collaborates with Baye Yuniw, a 'magical weaver'



LUMIAN: embroidered sarong bone and wood and Lumban-bore beads

ON A SMALL island off the coast of Mindoro, there lives a very old woman who loves to weave. It's her life's work and her ancestor's heritage. People call her Baye Yuniw. She comes from the local Mangyan tribe on the island.

Fiber sustainable fashion champion Dita Sandico-Ong (DSOL, chanced upon this woman seven years ago in a magical trade.

Dita and her friend, Gay Mon, were running Aaron Pristina, a Davao anthropologist and former priest who married a Mangyan tribeswoman, on the tiny island. They saw all the beautiful bags that the Mangyan women had woven, but one bag caught their eye. It was exceptionally well made and finely done, the weaving of the vines and the palnado (the cross symbol of the Mangyan) were impressive.

Unfortunately though, her friend had bought it. Dita severely hoped that Gay would let it go; the gods must have loved her work for she went home with the bag and the eager longing to meet the hands behind the masterpiece.

Inspired and important, she asked for one of the locals to find the weaver who did such wonders.

After what seemed like the slippery, nothing search for Goldenfin, they found the woman. Upon meeting the woman, Dita was enchanted. At around 75 years old, the thin, frail-looking woman transformed herself into an incredible weaving machine with great vision and form created of her hands, and she could go on for hours.

Dita found out that Baye Yuniw was the last living tribeswoman who really understood the weaving craft of the Mangyan. The other locals were neither as talented nor as interested in this cultural heritage.

Dita has made it her goal to make sure that the weaving heritage of the Mangyan will live on. She has invited Baye Yuniw to be a teacher to the Mangyan mothers and youth, and to the partners-weaver of her next collection.

Dita said she wants to raise public consciousness about the beauty and artistry of the Mangyan culture by sharing it to the world consciousness and to the global market. "She is such a treasure," said about Baye Yuniw. "We can do it in good and in bad in the days."

DSOL new line, Mangyan Renaissance, consists of Baba-Baba wraps that are hand-sewable pieces of the strong abaca and paraby-covered bell, the Dyan Macrame and Kinagong wooden clutches, and a number of necklaces, all showcasing the one-of-a-kind Mangyan patterns.

The collaboration between the designer and the Mangyan folk artist may be the answer to the stylist's cultural accountability. The marriage between modern fashion and modern fashion is a novel and noble project to uphold the Mangyan legacy that the world would be lucky to take part in.

Isis Baye Yuniw's woven wonders at DSOL launches her Mangyan-inspired collection in the Citem Trade Fair on Oct. 17-20, in the SMX Convention Center. Viewing site-find their work of fashionable art at 35 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan City and Bantayan Makatian kyala ave., Makati.

BAYE Yuniw

Barge . . .

From page E4

hotel in London, Laguna, were also incredible and safe, while The Farm at San Benito and Anantara Resort, both in Batangas, were the foremost health and wellness and beach and sun facilities destinations, respectively.

Giovanni Lopuyco, president of Manila's Bradstreet Arts and Crafts Inc., exhibited here some designs of Goldilocs Fabrics, which Couture Fashion Week organizers and founder Andrea Aquino had chosen to be the official fabric for the runway creations of the Fashion Avenue in the Silver Circle of The Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

Tabaco City Mayor Edsel Lagman-Lukoto in Albay featured the abaca fabric as part of fashion collection.

The Philippine participation was organized by First Lucas Chamber, Inc., headed by Elena Sembrano, to benefit the San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel in New York and the educational program of the Sembrey Mountain in Manila.

The sweet smell of a customized fragrance

Zen Zest gets very personal with its new line

By Paul Allison Palmore
Contributor

WHEN I FIRST smelled something in the works at Zen Zest, I had no idea it was for a new personalized scent line. Changing hats have wonderfully caught up with perfumer Michelle Aurora Fernandez, who attributes her fragrance empire's success to her adventurous spirit.

"Since I was a child, I was already fascinated with perfumes. At seven, I'd secretly play, mix and try on my uncle's collection of over 300 brands," she recalls. Named All Occasions to herald its universal nature, its starting point turns out to be a milestone close to Fernandez's heart—her very own wedding. "I made giveaways for the guests, roses and linen fragrances with personalized boxes and labels," she muses.

It didn't take long for friends and relatives to be enthralled and place orders after order until Fernandez decided it was time to take it seriously two years later. Finally, in October last year, All Occasions was born.

Within reach

The seven blends roll with the changing seasons, so gone are the days when customization was a privilege. There's an inspiring brands initiative and more offer in our reach. The personalized fragrances, she shares, are "classic vibrant and have that summer," says Fernandez. But years, though, still seriously suggests and another wants to classic. Daily fragrances for young, perky energetic women, fresh scents for the sporty, no-frills type; sweet or vanilla-based for the very feminine; floral for the sophisticated; and exotic for strong-willed men.

Hands on in the business, Fernandez uses by freedom of choice with her own preference: "It depends on my mood... Sometimes spa for floral fragrance or fine fresh for light-out-of-the-shower mood because it's not too overpowering."

While personalization with All Occasions products, ZenZest is more customizable, its bottling remains—steeped in Filipino ingenuity, which strongly keeps the scent of more future successes in the air. "We plan to create more scents with beautiful packaging. You'll also see more of us in bridal fairs," says Fernandez.

Call All Occasions Aveline area: 0917-AROMAT for more inquiries.

FROM top: Michelle Aurora Fernandez, gift set great fragrants at her wedding; some of Michelle's customized scents in simple yet elegant bottles

Barge Ramos shows collection in Couture Fashion Week New York

THE PHILIPPINES was invited to the 16th season of the Couture Fashion Week New York, last Sept. 10-17.

The three-day event at Bryant Park's Mercedes-Benz Fashion Tent showcased exhibitions of fine art, luxury products and services. There were also world-class entertainment, receptions and after parties, with runway fashion shows.

In these more than 5,000 upscale destinations, press, media buyers and VIPs, and online coverage—an estimated 250m loyal to promote Philippine culture, arts, heritage and tourism.

"Island Treasures at The Philippine Runway: a Philippine Fashion and Lifestyle Showcase" featured four Philippine high-society ladies such as the star of the Caribbean, the ambassador of Santo Nino, the spirit of Puerto Princesa City and the divas of Tabaco City, Albay and the fashion embroidery of Lumban's Invitations in Laguna.

Fashion designers Barge Ramos, International Jewelry Haven for his use of indigenous fabrics, presented a 40-piece collection of Philippine resort-inspired wear for men and women at the Philippine Gala Show on Sept. 14, with the parents, parents of Joseph Dumlao, a San Francisco-based Filipino fashion designer.

A collection of "friendly Filipino" fashion jewelry and accessories designed and created by Ansel Puga also complemented the collections.

The International of Tourism was touched to support through the participation of Southern Tagalog Tourism Director Josefina Lucila C. Antiles and Cordillera Administrative Region Tourism Director Pauline Sacandag-Mendoza, who helped showcase Philippine resort destinations and craft traditions.

Heading the Philippine Delegation to New York was Nilo C. Ignacio, the council lecturer and organizer of the Philippine participation.

ON RICE Ramos and Ansel Puga with models

DETAIL: dot of handwoven Cordillera and stretch chiffon gown by Barge Ramos, and floral bracelets by Ansel Puga; at left, leather earring Tagalog with lace runner by Ramos

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn presented the Puerto Princesa Underground River, a Unesco World Heritage Site, and Puerto Princesa's capital fabric.

Lace and pina hand-embroidered fabrics of Vicky de Ramos' Manila

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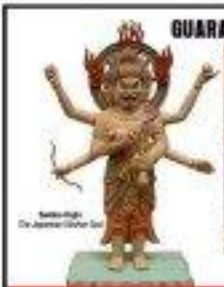

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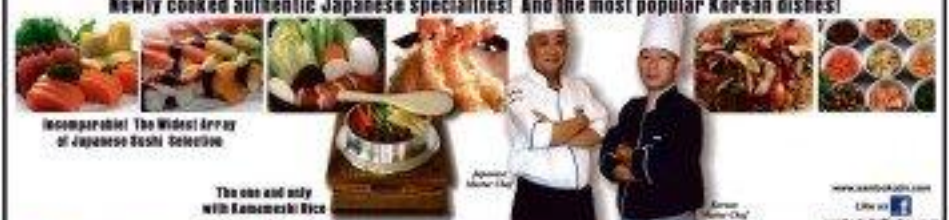

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

The Coin collection –wait, it's actually luxe jewelry

Italian jeweler Roberto Coin unveils a more affordable, predominantly silver collection

By Cherbe V. Moral

HE REMAINS a jeweler to Middle East royalty. But believe it when Roberto Coin says he is making more affordable styles in the coming seasons.

On a visit to Manila last week, his first since 2010, Coin unveiled The 18th Avenue, a collection designed under his son Carlo's supervision, and is made predominantly of silver, colored or plated in silver, gold, carbon-grey rhodium, and combined with leather or enamel, or electroformed

BUSINESS, F2

ANNEL Pesamosca, Tina Cuenca, Agnes Hufbauer, Ching and Philip Cruz, Marivic Reyes

HENANN Resort executive/operations manager Karl Clemente, Best Dressed awardee Gloria Jacinto Chua, Prestigious Men of Influence awardee and Henann Resorts chairperson Henry O. Chuatoy, Dominique Chua, wife Reyna, and daughter, 2011 Best Dressed Woman awardee Patty Jane Chua

BEST Dressed Women of the Philippines committee: Bea Gonzales, Rosalia Bulaong, Marlena Adviser Johnny Litton, Prime Model Rosario, event chair Helen Ong, Sandra Poblador, Betty Chua

12 women, with hubbies who can afford their high maintenance, named 'Best Dressed'

HOT NAMEDROPPABLE from Dasmariñas Wealthy are unveiled come out to full gala and your curiosity for a worthy cause.

We are talking about the fabulous 50s set and half of the Philippine Cancer Society to proclaim the Best Dressed Women of the Philippines, at the Makati Shangri-La's Royal Ballroom on Saturday.

Leading the fashionable set, were Philippine Cancer Society chair Dr. Roberto "Bobby" Puruyan and events chair, Consul Belen Ong of Nigeria.

The grand highlight was giving citation to the men and women, who made valuable, outstanding contributions for the betterment of the Cancer Society."

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcanchel

Hosted by Alex Van Hagen
powered by **mens HAC cares**

Twelve golden-hearted women with husbands that can well afford their high maintenance took center stage and amazed the crowd with their beauty and charm as they named Best Dressed.

Bernadette Pimentel's absolute favorite **Erlene Angara**; **Ana Amigo**; **Antonette Grace Barbers-Tujan**; **Sharon Ann Chua**; **Elizabeth Go**; **Joanne de Jesus Jimenez**; **Kathleen Lee Liechtenstein**; **Anita Mendiratta**; **Pinky Pimentel**; **Agile Zamoras**; **Jean** the dazzling star of the event, was this year's style icon, the gorgeous **Cheng Cruz** to Jess, who mesmerized the VIP section when she made her grand entrance in an olden glam ball gown by Rosa Clara.

Later in the finale she showed the crowd again in a trolly-dropping TC Mouton gown, dressed in Swarovski crystals from the chi-chi bridal couture's archives.

Eight gentlemen were also recognized as this year's Exemplary Men of Influence for their awardees **Ruel V. Ramos**, Solar Entertainment chair **Wilson Tieng**, lawyer **Rubylu T. del Rosario**, Henann Resorts chair and president **Henry O. Chuatoy**, Chevron chair **Romeo C. Ilarde**, Dr. **Eduardo G. Ong**, Turkish Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines EVP **Mehmet M. Mavuttuman**, and Galeon Corporation chair **Joseph Calata**.

Since Cruz was, one should not fail to note, that the sponsor—Ever Print, ONE Motion and Lifestyle 5.

Awardees included United States Ambassador **Harry Thomas**, model-turned-TV-host-Americana singer **Alice Pineda**, **Alyssa Agbayani**, the super-talented group Black Eyed Peas' Sir **Mamay Ollisar**, GMA Movies president **Felipe Ang**, **Michelle Madion**, **Lolly Dee**, **Boots Gozon**, **Tina Cuenca**.

STYLE Icon of the Year Cheng Cruz makes her grand entrance as a gorgeous Rosa Clara-fashioned ballgown, and her finale in an eye-catching TC Mouton ballgown.

HOPEFULS Nikki basketball players Josh Vanlandingham, Ray Quevarra, Rob Reyes and Alex Cabagnot, Best Dressed awardee Bea Arriaga and husband Willem Antonin

2011 Best Dressed Erlene Mendoza de Black Gold Resources executive April de Ags Antonio Representative Sonny Angara and wife, Best Dressed awardee Rocio Angara

MELANIE Gomez, TC Mouton, Mateo's fan Gino

2011 EXEMPLARY Men of Influence awardees former executive Ruel V. Ramos and Solar Entertainment Corporation chair Wilson Tieng

ANELITA Aaron, Lee Espinosa

ARJAN Teague, Marianne Garcia, Lucy Tan, Philip Cruz

GRACE Buja, Georgia Diaz, Alfonso Musaddieaux

PHILIPPINE Cancer Society chair Dr. Roberto Puruyan, Best Dressed awardee Elizabeth Go, Cora del Rosario and husband, Exemplary Men of Influence awardee, lawyer Rubylu del Rosario

NANCY Fernandez, Sylvia Paz, Representative Cielo del Mar, Carina Cruz Evangelista

CHINESE watercolor of birds on cinnamon branches

MOST Beautiful Recipe scene in watercolor

It was supervised by award-winning interior designer **Mandhan** and her fashion show duo by **Eddie Cuenca**, and at the 101 Hall of Arts Annex. It was divided into five themes—Bed-Archive, Boutique, Bauhaus, Lunchbox and Sculpture.

Designers who collaborated with Bench were Michael Cinco, Albert Andrada, Eric Santos, Val Teguiso, Cary Santiago, Jhanz Oro, Rajo Laurel, Jun Escalona, and my colleague, Randy Ortiz.

The art was exposed by artworks Mig Aguas sculpture and shared with the Pin Enchal Showcase singing for the grand finale, *palamigan*.

In between, the hottest celebrity endorsers ruled the ramp, such as sexiness boy and award-winning actor Coco Martin, and gun-slinging hunks Alber Abrenica, Enchong Dee, and John Cuenca, who showed off his talent to the unwelcome applause of the swooning women in the packed audience.

Meanwhile the men in the audience couldn't get their eyes off the stunning beauties on stage, such as Lorri Poe, Carla Abellana, Rica Chiu and Kary Bonoan.

Also modelling were power couples Hon-

TESSA Prieto Valdes, Bench CEO Ben Chan, Denise Yap, Steven Lim

BINCH creator Ben Chan, US ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr.

BINCH executives Nestor Jr. Lim and husband Virgilio Lim; Manny Pangilinan

ACTOR Coco Martin, one of the Bench stars brought the house down in Bench's Sagip ng Kabituan campaign launch

ry and Amkor Bungalao, and Richard and Tessy Torres-Gomez, artist.

Bench continues to appear in 7th Bench Underwear fashion show celebrated the best that Bench has been offering to the Filipino people in the last 25 years. We know that Bench will be conquering more in the years to come, "di ba? *palamigan*?

Vicky F. Zubiri art exhibit

Amateur artist and my dearest and many, **Vicky Reynolds Zubiri**, has been making her mark in the local art scene since her first solo exhibit, "Memories," in December 2009.

The brilliant show of watercolor works supported the charities of her alma mater, Assumption College, especially in the poor communities of Malabay, Pasay City.

She said watercolor is a difficult medium. "It's fragile and challenging when one is shy enough to be conquering more an large can really create painting," she told me.

Her first exhibit was inspired by her many travels around the world, featuring idyllic scenes in Tuscany, cozy Parisian cafés, the quiet winter of Innsbruck, the wilderness of Yellowstone and natural beauty of Hawaii, plus beaches, of course.

"I'm an artist," she said. "Love beauty in everything." This is not surprising since she has been surrounded by art since childhood. "As a child my mother used to bring me to museums while her parents were being painted," she said. "While growing up, I didn't recognized love in the lessons and realities of Masterpieces. Almost, drawings and many more, to the way an artist sees them."

She has some show coming.

"My personal theme is birds, flying against the sun or moon over the mountains. Portraying the story of impressionism in my drawings."

Starting for 6 years to take therapeutic learning two brain surgeries and having to cope with constant pain due to damaged nerves, she said her art-making has helped her beat her surgeries, transforming the negative to positive. A very Capricornian trait, I must say, *palamigan*.

Her painting is also a way for her to give back to society as she contributes part of the proceeds to charity.

This year's exhibit beneficiary is Rayanne Outreach Foundation, which supports survival of youth-and-children's organizations.

"Vicky is now all set to hold her second solo exhibit "Point of Perspective: Inspired Moments in Chinese and Western Watercolors." It will open on Oct. 16, 6 p.m., at the Manila Peninsula mezzanine. Check it out, dahlings.

What is making Dawn more beautiful than ever?

Dawn has been a movie star for more than 20 years, so how come she looks like she hasn't aged a bit? She's supposed to be aging with the rest of us, right?

Already 43, **Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo** looks perpetually in her 30s. When she appears on television, people can't help but be captivated by her timeless beauty. When she's on, it's impossible to look away. This is why she's voted one of Preview Magazine's Best Dressed Women of 2012 and named Most Beautiful Pinay of the Year by the country's leading entertainment blog, Starmometer.com.

So how does she do it? It's so easy to pin her youthful looks on invasive beauty procedures that are so popular nowadays, but then again, we can't. She's admitted that she's never tried Botox and probably never will. But Dawn is doing something, and she's been doing it for 8 years, she regularly visits Facial Care Centre for her favorite treatments.

As we know, with aging comes sagging skin, but you don't need facelift or the surgical kind to turn back the hands of time. There's ReFirme, Dawn's non-invasive facelift of choice. It uses Electro-Optical Synergy technology to firm up skin, lift and smooth out definition and sags, instantly making you look 8 years younger. And if you've ever wondered how she looks beautiful at any angle, she's kept her face slim and proportionally-shaped with UltraFace. It's perfect for targeting unsightly chin rolls, and recontouring chubby cheeks and sagging jawlines. With its combined technology of ultrasound and radio frequency, it virtually reduces facial fat and reshapes and reconstructs the face to make it more defined and attractive. Dawn admits she's quite addicted to these two treatments, *"I'm addicted to both ReFirme and UltraFace. I do ReFirme once a month and I undergo UltraFace. The funny thing is, some people think that I've had some surgical work done on my face! But I chose them that I'm so scary. I tell them it's really just the treatments at Facial Care Centre. And just recently, Amanda said I look really younger, he even asked me one time if I would take him to Facial Care Centre, I said, 'of course!' He should try it!"* So yes, Dawn is aging, but with the help of Facial Care Centre, it doesn't have to show.

Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo

Dawn isn't the only celebrity who visits Facial Care Centre, **Agot Isidro** and **Shaleen Soledad-Romualdo** frequent the skin care centre as well. Like Dawn, Agot is an avid fan of ReFirme. In an interview, Agot can't help but gush about it, *"I love ReFirme. It's my instant facelift. Every time I have a show, my laugh lines and slight sags become less and less, and my eyes perk up. There really is no need for botox or cosmetic surgery. It's ReFirme for me. I also like the facials at Facial Care Centre. Whenever I do long shoots, my skin gets dull and I get dark circles under my eyes. The facials keep my skin fresh and dewy, no matter how hectic my days get. You know, like aging thing is no joke, but FCC makes it look like a breeze."* For Shaleen, it's about keeping it simple – spotless, clear, flawless fair skin. She says, *"Facial Care Centre knows how to take care of a woman's natural beauty. When I started appearing on television, I had to put on makeup, which affects my skin. So I have to take extra care of it. OptiLight keeps my skin clear, rosy and blemish-free. It looks beautiful even without makeup."*

Andrea Aranza-Abaroa

Blanca Arzueta-Elizalde

Shaleen Soledad-Romualdo

Agot Isidro

Big designer **Andrea Aranza-Abaroa** and model **Blanca Arzueta-Elizalde** have been long-time clients of Facial Care Centre too. Andrea has been going since 2000, and for the longest time, she's been hearing compliments on her skin. *"My friends actually thought that I've blessed with unusually good skin, and when I shared with them the secret of Facial Care Centre, they can't wait to try it. You can really trust FCC with your skin. They have a very long history, they're very reliable and stable. You feel secure with Facial Care Centre. They have a good reputation."* For Blanca, aging gracefully is the most important thing, *"I've been told a lot of times I look young! My friends say I never aged since high school. But my husband is my biggest fan. He loves the way I look now more than ever... Facial Care Centre really helps women age gracefully."*

Facial Care Centre is celebrating their 39th anniversary this month. Don't miss their **Buy 1 Take 1** on **Skin Tone Re-energizer, Advanced Lasertone,** and **Diamond Peel** which starts on October 15, 2012. Call them at **892-7546 / 233-7631 (CEBU) / 961-3484 (PAMPANGA)** for more details. Better yet, schedule a free consultation.

ROBERTO Coin is one wide openeyed who isn't quite enamored with the small prospects of China.

The Coin collection—wait, it's actually luxe jewelry

From page F1

for a diamond-cut finish.

Electrifying cinema in effect when the subtle surface of the design softens light like it would on a cut precious stone.

The wire mesh grille on the Frenche and Bound signaled the serious bangles and bracelets, according to Coin.

Coin is a former builder who founded his company in Vicenza, Italy, in 1977 creating jewelry for the likes of Cartier and Tiffany & Co. He launched his eponymous line only in 1996, and has a perplexing appreciation for the luxury business.

First, he is perhaps among only a few entrepreneurs who aren't quite enamored with the retail prospects of China. He has over 600 points of sale globally, none of them in China.

"Nope (as one brand that has really made money in China," he said dismissively.

He pulled up a piece of paper to illustrate his point, drawing with his pen what looked to be an hourglass figure. The top triangle, he said, is the super rich, and the bottom triangle is the poor. The narrow point between the two is the middle class.

While the middle class is said to be growing in number, it's not exactly buying luxury, he said. Instead, the middle class goes into more moved affordable brands and products.

Coin seems to feel this is he true in all his markets, thus The Fifth Season collection. Here you, the company will sell use a "much younger" line with a different price point, as he sees potential in the segment.

In the Philippines, Roberto Coin is sold exclusively at Rustan's Silver Vault in Makati and Shangri-La.

Smorgasbord approach

While Coin showed off a 1930s-style bridal tiara he custom-made for a Qatari princess, he also said the Roberto Coin style catalog increased its offering from the usual 800 models to 1,200 in 2012.

Isn't this smorgasbord approach almost akin to running an H&M, a rock shop source courtesy to the humorist of luxury jewelry?

Not at all, he replied. "I like every woman to be different," he said. "Every woman has a different personality. Everyone has a different taste. I want you pick according to what you feel."

Coin says they will introduce a collection going on "extremely strong" black jade from Africa. Inspired designs will also be predominant in the 2013 collection, sure you bring the Year of the Snake. Animal themes are a prominent segment of the Roberto Coin collection.

Whatever the price point, one detail remains constant in the jewelry: the pieces of ruby incorporated in every piece. The red gem is believed to be a talisman to ward off evil spirits, and Roberto Coin has adopted it as a signature.

5.EIGHT Collection, silver rings, bangle and necklaces in rhodium/dark/smoked diamond-cut finish. Right: 3. Pave Collection, silver- and gold-plated silver/wood bangles, necklace and earrings

I.AQUA Collection, silver with black enamel bangles, necklace, ring and earrings

3.SIX Collection, silver jewelry plated in rose gold/ethanium and rhodium

Metrobank Card launches new credit card for women

Metrobank Card, together with ICanServe Foundation, Inc., recently launched the first credit card of its kind in the Philippines to support King Dhedlen, the foundation's early breast cancer detection program in resource-challenged communities, and the only free-to-you breast screening program in the country.

Users can convert and donate to ICanServe. When they accumulate P5,000 on the new Femme ICANSERVE Visa, cardholders get a limited edition Rags 2 Riches clutch bag by Rajo Laurel.

To celebrate breast cancer awareness month this October, cardholders of the Femme

'Enjoy the perks and privileges of the Metrobank Femme Visa and benefits that promote the objectives of ICanServe...'

Launched this October, the Femme ICANSERVE Visa gives the perks and privileges of the Metrobank Femme Visa while also providing benefits that promote the objectives of ICanServe.

Network of survivors

ICanServe Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1999 by journalist and breast cancer survivor Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala with friends Cristeta Cardoza, Becky Fuentes, and Bet Lozano. Today, the foundation provides a nationwide network of cancer survivors who provide hope and help to women with breast

cancer through programs such as information campaigns and breast cancer screening.

A card to help fight the path for healing

With the new Femme ICANSERVE Visa, cardholders earn Rewards Points for all spending, which can then be converted into ICanServe. When they accumulate P5,000 on the new Femme ICANSERVE Visa, cardholders get a limited edition Rags 2 Riches clutch bag by Rajo Laurel.

To celebrate breast cancer awareness month this October, cardholders of the Femme ICANSERVE Visa and Metrobank Femme Visa enjoy rare and exclusive perks and privileges:

Enjoy 20% discount on bras and 15% discount on multi-pack knickers at Marks & Spencer. Get the ICanServe Watch by Swatch available in all Swatch stores for P5,000 on straight purchase or in 0% installment. Get a P1,000 Gift Certificate for a minimum purchase of P5,000 at Confiteria, which specializes in breast prostheses, mastectomy bras, and other accessories for women who have undergone breast surgery. Avail of 10% discount on digital mammogram and 15% discount on breast ultrasound services at Springfield Breast Care Center.

A portion of all sales using a Femme ICANSERVE Visa or Metrobank Femme Visa at these merchants will be donated to the ICanServe Foundation.

Show your support for ICanServe in the fight against breast cancer with the new Femme ICANSERVE Visa. Convert your existing Metrobank Femme Visa or apply for a new Metrobank Card. Visit www.metrobankcard.com.ph, or call 8-789-700 to apply.

Signing the agreement to launch the Femme ICANSERVE Visa are (from left) Visit Philippines Country Manager Lulu Gonzalez, ICANSERVE Founder Dan Magsanoc-Alikpala, Metrobank Card President/Vice Chairwoman, and Metrobank Card Deputy Cards Head Anna Theresa Guerrero

THE ITALIAN purveyor with Rustan's' Dina Patricia (left) and Marilen Tiamzon-Enriquez

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

THE WORKING CLASS

Rina Silayan Go,

Vida Montinola Macasaet: 'Less is more in all aspects of my life'

LEAD and sultry with full pouty lips, silky auburn hair (the mark of the Macasaet girls) and big soft eyes—this is the image Vida Montinola Macasaet leaves impressions on your mind.

She was born simply this way, and this with organic beauty and charm. And, as the most reserved one, somehow the debut quite fit the mold of the other Montinola girls—all raised in the grounding family component but re-

Saying she can get ready in '15 minutes, tops,' the accessory designer finds creating from scratch, by hand-crocheting and knotting, very cathartic

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Vida Montinola Macasaet: 'Less is more in all aspects of my life'

From page G1

capital blocks of the old Forbes Park—who were known to be fun, attractive and pretty, she says a lot for trade visitors who often had difficulty choosing silhouette pieces.

Effortless dressing

She owes her sense of style to her mother, Teresita. As a young girl, Vida would play "grown-up," wearing her mother's "mom stuff" and that's true luxury coo-mod.

"She was effortless in her manner of dressing," Vida reveals her mother's style, "and she sported short boss locks, unlike most women of her time who maintained themselves to hair."

"I grew up with so much inspiration, which I drew from and which helped me become an artist."

Her oldest sister Isa is the designer behind the BBT Augusto's brand, a house name at Bonnys New York. Vida says Isa and her husband Nonoi were the first to see imagine and other skins in their furniture, bags and accessories lines.

"If there is anything Isa taught me, it is that a true artist stays true to his craft and honors originality," she says.

In the late '80s, Vida enrolled in the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, with a major in Children's Wear Design. As a student, she modeled for the Fashion Photographer class, worked on showrooms modeled for Fashion Week and ran shower for Connie Ho Hanyu Indiana shows.

After her stint as designer of children's wear at Dakendall Company, she moved to Minneapolis and studied art history at the University of Minnesota. Working in an art gallery, she immersed herself in the art trade.

This served as her springboard to fashion accessory design. She handmade necklaces using self-learned techniques in bead-crochet, bead-knotting and embroidery.

In Manila, she managed the high-end Touchwood Collection, which specialized in Chinese classical furniture, Southeast Asian home pieces and Tibetan furniture.

"I delved into and studied the history of China and immersed myself in Buddhism to understand the pieces, and to create and conceptualize Chinese events and do visual merchandising," she says.

Signature piece

Today, Vida concentrates on her line of accessories called casually, crinkled collection with emphasis on headwear and eye jewelry, she immersed herself in the art trade.

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SEQUIN top, The Bonny shorts, Bonnie Parkins platforms, CNE ring, Aldo Accessories

PUMPS, Aldo; arm jewelry, carnadiV; dress, Vida's own, David Dorne

NECKLACE, carnadiV; black dress, Vida's own, Crossroads Kanyon

PEARLS Necklace from the Rhinestone Series 2012 collection available powered by Vida Macasaet; under the carnadiV label

CROCHET beaded necklace that can also be worn as belt.

CROCHET beaded necklace that can also be worn as belt.

CROCHET bag in black striated silk cord and brown plastic chain trim and clasp. Made to order only

BLACK beaded velvet tie ruffled necklace worn as headband.

Besides ready-to-clothes, bags, shoes and accessories.

"My signature piece is the beaded, velvet tie-ruff bracelet. I also created beaded obi belts with detachable coin purse with zircon cord. I saw sequin-wear trends on my models' bare."

She also finds the time to source works of other artists and collaborate with other creative minds.

Vida's hypersensitive nature once led to a period of depression, a time that saw her focusing on her craft as a way of expressing her feelings.

"Creating from scratch by hand—cutting and knotting is very cathartic for me, when I am in the zone. I see the glass coming alive before my very eyes, almost like a surrealist, wherein certain truths reveal themselves to the people I love are revealed to me. It brings me great joy and peace."

Materials such as enameled with coral, bronze, stone and wood are other the ones to create pieces.

It's the process she enjoys. "It's all about the process," she says.

Simple but essential

Vida's style is simple but essential. "I wear pieces that can be worn many ways. I wear the same pieces over and over and I don't intend in a few years. I have only three or four pairs of shoes that I wear throughout the year, until they are worn out. I can get ready in 15 minutes, tops. I use very modern cosmetics, loose face powder, mascara, and a dash of blush lipstick and lip balm. Less is more in all aspects of my life.

"I'm also a firm believer that you are what you eat, so no to sweet and processed food. Taking lots of green, raw juice and doing yoga are part of my regimen. I still cook with three or five ingredients and whip up a tasty, healthy dish. I enjoy wine only if it's a good bottle from my brother Bobby. I sometimes only people at home. I love and value this most, and very lately do I even entertain, as my house is my sanctuary. My youngest sister Toots keeps me on my toes, ensuring a modern and child relationship."

Indeed, what better way to create your own style than to curate your life until you are truly happy with how you have transformed yourself?

Forget the old warnings—oil can be good for your skin

It has a small molecular structure that easily penetrates the skin

I GREW UP with the notion that oil on your skin is a no-no. It makes your skin break out, most dermatologists said, so all the beauty products I've used since my teens, whether skincare or makeup, were all oil-free.

Last year, my colleagues at Rodel's sent me a curious-looking blue bottle to try—called Midnight Recovery Concentrate. When I saw that it was an oil, I left it on the shelf for a while because I was hesitant to use it.

But when I came home one day from a trip looking tired and fatigued, I decided to give it a try. The next day, I woke up to amazing results. My skin felt firmer, tighter, more hydrated. From then on, I became an oil convert. I use mine on my third bottle, and I advocate this with my regular skincare products.

Oil is usually the last thing we think of using to get better-looking skin. We're so gonna used to being ultra-clean and so-creamy-soft-skinned.

But research, it turns out, shows that oil can deliver powerful ingredients better than creams, since essential oils have a small molecular structure that easily penetrates the skin. Oil has been used in skincare for centuries, most notably in Ayurvedic medicine. It's also a mainstay in French brands such as Dauphine, Clarins and Decleor.

Rel Cuevas

FRONT ROW

Challenge

I recommend oil especially if you have dry, sensitive skin. The challenge, however, is not like when you're buying cream, is finding the right one for you.

Clarins dare the guesswork for you as it offers several kinds of Face Treatment Oil for every skin type. Some friends in the industry also highly recommend pure Moroccan Argan oil and Human Nature Healthcare Beauty Oil.

How to get it's good-quality oil?

The best ones are cold-pressed and shouldn't be too thick, and should be stored in colored tubes you can't see your skin.

And if there's one kind of oil you should steer clear of, it's mineral oil. Mineral oil is thick and is often the culprit that clogs pores. As with any skincare product, check the labels before you buy.

CLARINS Face Treatment Oils for every skin type

Clarins and Rodel's Face Therapy Moroccan Argan Oil are available at Rodel's Department Stores. Rodel's stores are at Greenbelt 3, Trinoma Mall and Power Plant Mall. Human Nature is available at Rustan's Supermarkets.

Email the author at rcuevas@gmail.com

RODEL'S Midnight Recovery Concentrate has a blend of several botanicals.

HUMAN Nature's Sunflower Beauty Oil

COLORFUL resort-summer accessories for Tod's SGD O.

NEW collection for Spring/Summer 2013 at Tod's

Jewel totes, pastels, two-for-ones, tweaked classics—Milan reworks the bag

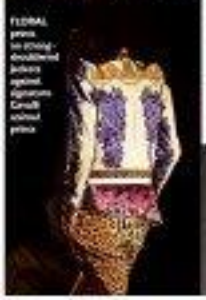
Also—perforated leathers, oversized florals, intricate beadwork

TOD'S Signature bag with studs

FENDI'S new 2-for-1 tote with the iconic Baguette

BALLY'S SGD 1,195 perforated bag (above) and Salvatore Ferragamo's Pandora bag

PRINTED canvas Miu Miu bag for Dolce & Gabbana SGD815



FLORAL prints in strong-shouldered jackets against signature Cavalli animal prints

THE FRIDA bag sticks to a similar SGD O.

SUNNY Spring/Summer 2013 collection. Milan's first show this season, was romantic and demure—strategic dits on dresses covered with more feminine details like ruffles.

An envelope-style flap bag with the signature Gucci horsebit hardware, featured prominently on the runway, this was Gucci's newest bag. The bag had obtained long-strap which could also be tucked inside, turning the shoulder bag into a tote clutch.

Jewel boxes called the collection. Designer Clarence Frida Giovanni was inspired by gems to create a dress. Designs dutch with contrasting gem shapes.

Accessories were bold and dressy—another accompaniment to the dresses' statement looks. Oversized eyewear.

Ingrid Chua-Go

THE BAG HAG DIARIES

Fendi

Fendi has a very strong collection for the upcoming Spring/Summer of 2013. The baguette celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, but creative director Karl Lagerfeld keeps the focus on the iconic bag. He has cleverly pieced together leather panels in strategic locations for a new and modern "graphic illusion" Fendi baguette without the signature buckle.

What is even more interesting is Lagerfeld's unconventional of the new baguette: just a shoppers tote with several clear "pockets" to hold the baguette—a two-in-one bag for day-to-night wear.

Classic baguettes were still part of the collection. Jacked in paillettes, fringes and exotic skin blends. The popular clutches got the color-blocked and exaggerated treatment.

The signature peekaboo bag, though heavy, was noticeably—literally remarkable with precise touches of a bold neon colour(s) and cut-outs (sliced portions into clutch) to fix in the body of the bag.

Bally

Bally's creative director Michael Herz and Graeme Fidler have infused a fresh and more modern approach into Bally's logo and shoes without disrupting the brand's tradition. The new Paphos bag is sporty and is cultural enough perhaps to send a subtle Bally Mark into fashionistas, as it is very stylized and beautifully feminine.

Perforated leather was also part of the collection. This busy-on leather made the bags so much lighter. The bags are worth watching out for when they hit the shelves in February-March 2013.

Prada

Prada looked to the Orient...Japan...for minimalist inspiration. Strong pieces in the collection (think bold-cream kimono-like duty made of heavy duchesse satin) would work nicely as separates.

Flowers were dominant, but executed in symmetry.

The frames are a definite must-have for Spring. Bags are smaller, and unlike last season when floral appliqué patterns were sewn throughout the shorter bags, bigger blooms were now placed strategic positions on the body and on the soles...more accessorizing for those who remain conservative in their bag desires.

Dolce & Gabbana

Dolce & Gabbana's Sicilian summer inspired its Spring/Summer 2013 collection. Bright colours and prints in tried-and-tested silhouettes dominated the runway. The almost sculptural wicker sandals and wedges are sure to send shoe lovers mad.

A FESTIVE Sicilian summer

FERRAGAMO'S summer boho bag

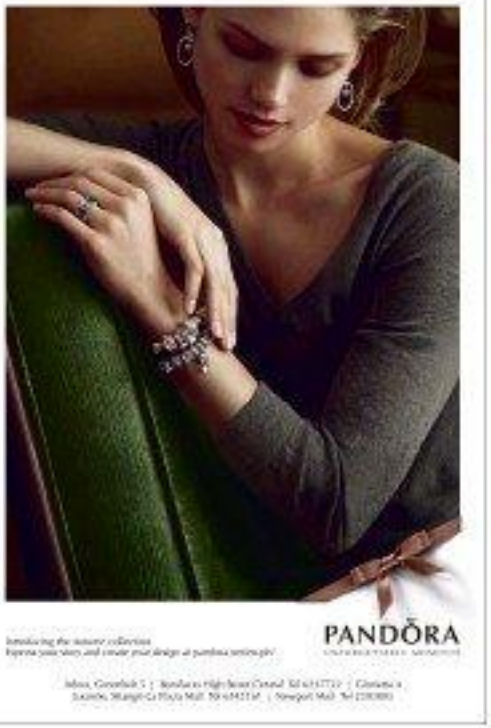
Style also reworked, and the Fantasy D bags and gamuzza loafers were come with more intricate details. The legendary collection also included some top-handle bags and a hard case clutch. Beautiful gown trims and neutral shades with vivid accents formed the new collection.

Salvatore Ferragamo

Made-off in the Bra signature collection by executive director Massimiliano Giornetti, for its edgier if not 'in-classic' look for the season. Giornetti gave the tote/duvet a more updated and slick look with stirrings of supple calf or lambskin leather with suede. Ferragamo's new boho had useful hand-wave duvet lined the space of the bag. Geometrical belts were also a highlight.

Another standout were open-toe knee high boots lined-up in the finale—very classy, very sexy, and if Salvatore were alive today, they would no doubt win his approval.

Visit www.thebaghagdiaries.com, follow on twitter.com/thebaghag



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2CU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan Contributing editor Lulu Curtis San Juan

Bring back Old Manila, cry the youth

RECOLETA in 1962. Jacinto, the building young people do not remember

The author, 22, is the youth coordinator for the Heritage Conservation Society. She calls out to her fellow youth to join HCS-Y by e-mailing at hcsyouth@yahoo.com your name, cell-phone number, e-mail address and brief reason for joining

By Pia Ranada
Contributor

I DO NOT remember the Art Alex. I have never marveled at the Ilang-Ilang trees that once lined the paseo to Luneta. Nor once have I walked through Escolta in all its glory, when it exuded glamour comparable to stylish European boulevards.

When my college history professor told us that Manila was once the Pride of Asia, I could not believe my ears.

And can you really blame me? For when Manila today is a quagmire of traffic, belched smog and rotting garbage. Not when the buildings of Escolta look down upon you like haggard beggars. Most walls smeared with grime, ghosts of their former elegance. Not when the Art Alex is nowhere to be found, having been demolished in 2000 by then Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, only to be replaced by an empty lot.

You tell us Old Manila was once beautiful. Where is evidence of that?

Hunt for the old city

After that history class, I scoured Philippine history books and the web for a glimmer of that golden past. To my surprise, there was so much material.

Bloggers have posted archival photos of buildings as they were, when they were the pride of a nation in full swing before the devastation of World War II.

Carlos Celdran and Ivan Henares offer tours of Manila, taking oldtimers urban explorers to reveal that open their eyes to the heritage parking under the layers of smog and grime.

It is there, despite the disappointing sorrow of a city gone to the dogs. Beneath the cities of our daily lives is a beautiful city of art Deco buildings, old Spanish churches, tree-lined boulevards and parks. A city asking to have birth and show us what we've been missing all these years.

I've wandered far and wide for this city only to find it staring at me in the face. We still have some buildings left. Despite all our efforts, we have failed to erase this city of our dreams. We still have the Manila Church and San Sebastian Church; the Old Manila building built by Juan Arellano in the '30s with relief sculptures by the Italian artist Francisco Monti; the Modern Times in Makati built before World War II as part of the country's first intentional commercial center; and many more.

These buildings stand on our university campuses, beside LRT stations, in front of malls or on streets we pass on our way to work. They are everywhere yet we do not see them.

Seeing Manila

The first step to bringing back Old Manila is to see Old Manila. Don't only pass by these buildings, but look at them. Really look at them and imagine them if they had been cleaned and restored. Imagine them in their prime.

I spent two weeks in Europe for an internship and in between work, I would wander the streets of Amsterdam and Paris. What I saw there astounded me.

Buildings that date as far back as the 14th century have been restored and continue to be in use today. A building that might've witnessed the Black Plague currently houses McDonald's. A 17th-century chapel has been transformed into a classy bar. Though there is an ink for full-of-local drinks by the front, one can see the organ by the high ceiling which had once played mass songs. Old townhouses still house residents. A gothic church known a gallery

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OLD looking in present-day Manila

Bring back Old...

From page B1

YOUNG city explorers discovering Manila one temple/church at a time

Bookstores, cinemas and boutiques front old buildings.

Bring it back

Why can't we have that in our cities? Why must Old Manila remain old, a sheer cemetery, a fleeting moment gone forever when we can bring it back? The rest is no longer an option.

Manila was only the second most developed city during World War II. Whereas most of the first and second-tier cities were flattened, the Philippine capital retained their built heritage.

With enough awareness, political will, financial convenience and involvement from all corners, can't we bring back our city as well?

It will take time and effort, but that is a small price to pay for national identity and pride.

A couple of college friends and I reconvened in our Quiapo, Binondo and Intramuros hoping to get a glimpse of the city we had been robbed of. We bring our cameras and some money to go on a Chinese food binge in Binondo. We wonder the streets hungrily and greedily take photos of the still beautiful buildings there, desperate for a taste of the past.

There is so much beauty in our built heritage.

My dream is to see Manila restored, transformed into a walkable city where the streets are organized in a way that motorists can flow only to certain areas so that people can eat at fewer setbacks are pollution getting in the way of a pleasant lunch.

I want to see my kids sitting under a bench beside a tree-lined walkway getting ready to buy milk tea from the Old Manila's bustling, neo-nostalgic home in stylish cubits.

I want a Manila blocked by cool eco signs to see the Paris of Asia. Only we are, it needn't be just another Paris. It will be Manila. Our Manila.

Chess: the sport of opportunity

It exercises your brain and, if you're really good, takes you places

By Ray Steven Ericta
Student correspondent,
De La Salle University

A PBA COMMENTATOR once quoted a local basketball legend: "Kung hindi ka bumaba nang-chess ka sa king." (If you're not ready to get hurt, play chess instead.)

Perhaps Filipinos are having a hard time getting over the fact that most of us are not made for basketball, given our size and height. Maybe football is the way to go, but then again, we kind of have a thing for extremely brave and more foreigners instead of our own.

Intense, prestigious

Shell gathered the best of our country's players in this year's Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship.

Now on its 20th year, the competition is not only more intense, it's more prestigious for up-and-coming players. With all competitors required to be a member of the National Chess Federation, the chess championship is sure to be one of the most difficult for all players.

Participants include Jerad Becerra, who many believe, is already destined to be a grandmaster in chess. This junior at Ateneo de Manila de Grade 11 intends to study medicine for himself abroad. He's from Bohol where he and his siblings were encouraged by their father to play chess.

Nona one of his school's best players, he has competed and won many times. He's also one of the tournament in his class—probably even in the school.

'Boring' sport

I recently had the privilege to spend time with Jerad and his father, with organizers of the event, among them, rector Angel and national arbiter Alexander Bonoy. It was an eye-opener when he admitted that chess was a "boring" sport. Though a hardly opposite to the masses, the opportunities offered by the sport were somehow as big as the perks of collegiate basketball.

Good grades

Yes, might even get good grades because chess exercises your brain through the strategies you form when you prepare for a match.

But chess develops not only your mental skills. Angel says the game gives us youngsters a chance to be involved in our community.

Listening to their stories made chess undoubtedly tempting to us. But at the same time it made me depressed. I felt it was kind of late for me to get into the sport. And hearing about the opportunities offered by chess made me realize what I have missed.

This is definitely a sport where we could learn foreigners. The Shell competition affirms the huge potential our country has in developing the next grandmaster.

Our success with our long-reduced team was met with controversy with the Philippine Sports Commission. Our love for basketball continues and we are still chasing the dream to be considered the best in the world. Our love of football has also grown and made way our leagues take on foreigners and bigger and better opponents.

Yes, if given the adequate support, we can be winners in chess.

News

A few weeks after my meeting with the organizers and Jerad, I got news that he won his second consecutive Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship. This did not come as a surprise to me.

With the new Grand Master that Shell has produced, it seems we are closer to conquering the game of down.

RONALD Dalmeo in action; chess player Jerad Becerra

INTERACTION with the Masters 2012

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

DATE & TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTOR
DAY 1 - October 12, 2012 - Friday		
12:00PM-1:00PM	Mini Clinic: Presentations	Philippine Women's University
1:00PM-2:00PM	Topic: Mindset of a Successful Entrepreneur	Ms. Michael of "Kaya Ko Yan"
2:00PM-3:00PM	Mini Clinic: Cooking Demo	Chef Boy Logro/ Lasserre
3:00PM-4:00PM	Mini Clinic: Franchising Presentation	Mendoza
4:00PM-5:00PM	Topic: Product Positioning	Ms. Jojie Calimlim, Kingsborough Int. Pte Singapore
5:00PM-6:00PM	EXT R.U.N.S.H.O.W. Mini Clinic: Franchise Show	Entrepreneur Asia Franchise Expo Organizers, Inc.
DAY 2 - October 13, 2012 - Saturday		
11:00AM-1:00PM	Franchise Fair Presentations	
1:00PM-2:00PM	Topic: Franchise Opportunity Speaker	Ms. Sarina Francisco, CEO & Chief Trainer, DBM Social Training & Consulting, Franchise Director, Academy of Consulting Companies
2:00PM-3:00PM	Topic: Business Expansion / Franchising Load	BPO Re Negosyo
3:00PM-4:00PM	Topic: Franchising the Philippine Marketing	Inward Philippines
4:00PM-5:00PM	Understanding the Laws of Marketing for Better Branding	Atty. L. Cruz Of Accelerist
5:00PM-6:00PM	Presentations	Department of Trade and Industry
6:00PM-7:00PM	Photo Ops Hour	Ms. Karen D. Lopez, Asia Blog; Ms. Khaithrina L. Hernandez, Entrepreneur Philippines
7:00PM-8:00PM	Topic: Marketing Your Business	Ms. Andy Anderson, Ask and Learn
DAY 3 - October 14, 2012 - Sunday		
10:00AM-11:00AM	Franchising Hour	Atty. Fe Abejo, Bebe Tai, Cesar Ong Ke
11:00AM-12:00PM	Topic: Managing Franchisee Relations	Count Fe N. Acevedo, Creative Manager, Entrepreneurship Center, Core Success Center
12:00PM-1:00PM	Topic: Understanding Your Business	Ms. Grace Ann Lapid, Author, 21 Ways to Tell Your Story Effectively and Successfully
1:00PM-2:00PM	Topic: Franchise Opportunities	Ms. Jacqui Tan, Mercurio's Pizzeria
2:00PM-3:00PM	Lots of Prizes Surprise	Lots of Prizes Celebrity Host
3:00PM-4:00PM	Franchise Hour	Coca-Philippines Drinks
4:00PM-5:00PM	Topic: Successful Franchise Management	John Calalo, John Calalo Training Incorporated
5:00PM-6:00PM	Franchise Week, Seeking Out Winners on the Spot	Mendoza Manila
6:00PM-7:00PM	Franchise is a Freedom - Entrepreneurship	Overseas Filipino Fairs and Multi-Service Inc.

*Schedule and activities are subject to change without prior notice

Ateneo's Big 3 and their extraordinary choice

The Blue Eagles' triple threat, on how to get a 'five-peat'

THE ATENEO Blue Eagles have more than enough reason to be jubilant about the 75th Season of the University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP) men's basketball tournament.

The team has kept its head, thanks to its formidable trio: Nico Salva, Kiefer Ravena and Greg Slaughter.

Known in the collegiate basketball league as the triple threat, the formidable quartet of the Blue Eagles has certainly set the bar high for other players and teams. The combined powers of UAAP Season 74 Finals MVP and Rookie of the Year and the tallest player in the league are quite extraordinary.

Admirable

Yet, these young men remain level-headed despite the fans' adulation—which make them all the more admirable. Across 2 leg to the star players, having an injury is not an excuse. With a historic five-peat championship looming, they cannot afford to be caught off guard.

"Our mind-set is to do everything better," Nico states, "because when you're on top, everyone is gunning for you."

The 7-ft-tall Greg nodded, agree more: "Winning four championships in a row commands respect, but that also means all the other teams are after us. That alone keeps us motivated."

Ateneo's young guns definitely have their hearts and minds in every game. Kiefer, whose father is a former PBA star player, always remembers what his dad taught him: never be learned the basics of the game.

"My dad always tells me to respect the game no matter what team you're in or who your opponent is. Make up-keeping ng pangalan (basketball) at iyo," Kiefer states.

Favorite choice

As the intensity of the tournament builds up each week, Nico, Greg and Kiefer try to relax and take their minds off the game from time to time. Apart from checking the mandatory four hours a week in the players' study hall, they like to hang out at Greenwich across their sprawling campus. Their favorite and favorite choice—Crispy Glazed Chicken.

Extraordinarily juicy, crispy and bursting with flavor in every bite, the Crispy Glazed Chicken is wrapped in a lip-smacking sweet and mildly spicy glaze that lingers on the palate. "It's really delicious and the sauce is just right," says Kiefer. "Solid na solid."

Those bonding moments are something Nico and Greg will miss, since both are playing their last season for the Blue Eagles. Nico was part of the team's four-peat championship which started in his freshman year. He's very determined to earn his fifth win before he finds his fitness jersey—a feat no other UAAP player has done.

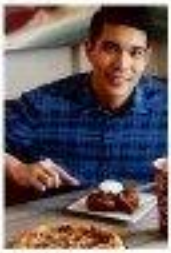
While the professional league is in the horizon for Nico and Greg, both players have ambitions to share with college basketball players who want to make it big in the league.

"You have to keep your self on a steady level and not get emotional," Greg points out, referring to the fact that some players tend to go easy in their game once they start winning. "You always have to be ready for the next game," he adds.

As for Kiefer, he is expected to lead the Blue Eagles in the coming years. The chances of winning more championships are not impossible. "We just need to be focused on our game," he says. "We have a very supportive coaching staff for which we are very thankful. And with the fanatic community and alumni behind us, it's going to be One Big Fight!"

GREG Slaughter

KIEFER Ravena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BIG BANG members Daesung, TOP, Seungri, G-Dragon and Taeyang

The Samsung 'Imma Big Bang Fan' contest

Five lucky winners get free tickets to the concert and rehearsals

SAMSUNG and 2NE are giving five lucky winners and their friends tickets to the Big Bang rehearsals and concert on Oct. 26.

All Big Bang fans have to do is design the most creative, witty and eye-catching Big Bang fan poster.

The mechanics:

Open to all high school and college students.

Entry can be either traditional or digital art.

Three dominant colors must be used in the poster: red, blue and white, but other colors can also be used for creative effect.

E-mail your entries to 2ne.lifestyle.inquirer@gmail.com with a scanned school ID and contact number.

Deadline is Oct. 21.

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Fliptop: the modern 'balagtasan'

An updated version of rap, fliptop serves as a medium through which Filipino youth can make their voices heard

By Karina Isabel M. Yap
Student contributor
University of the Philippines Diliman

NELLIANE, 18, STUCK her tongue out at the end of her repartee. Her head bobbed as she rapidly delivered her lines. Her hands pumped the air in the space between us to the beat of her repartee. She smiled quickly in the end, partly congratulating herself for her successful delivery and partly to ease the sting of her last line. She just performed her fliptop routine in front of me.

Viral

A few years back, fliptop rap battles earned recognition in the Philippines quickly after several videos of such were viral on YouTube. Millions of Filipinos swooped to the popular video-sharing website to watch two teens trot each other's wit with rhythmic and clever lines delivered in an aggressive tongue-twisting manner. The more salas one made other's tolerance for insults.

Tongue-twisters and rhymes have a special place in the childhood of every Filipino. However, most are confined in English like 'Peter Piper Picked a Peck of Pickled Peppers.' One could argue that fliptop battles are, in essence, a reclamation of childhood and its reminiscence to the native tongue.

Anupama, one of the more famous faces in the fliptop community attributed the success of fliptop rap battles to the typical experience of Filipino male telling each other all types of hell to the parking lot "from grade school to high school." Sometimes, even outside the classroom, spent hanging out with my classmates, in grade school and high school, outside our school flashed in my mind. The memories are hazy, but it made me smile thinking of the crap we told each other.

Fliptop rap battles do not feature your usual nursery rhymes. It's common for colorful language to find its way in the prose of participants. Outrageously sexualized, occasionally pepper their prose. The combination of rhythm and flow participants take from the burden of being politically correct. Words you wouldn't dare say in front of your mother are spewed out in fliptop rap battles, without hesitation and without a blink of an eye from the participants.

Eja vs W-Beat

For this article, I watched the fliptop rap battle between Eja and W-Beat, for the Pinoy Fil-Ipino Rap Battle League, uploaded on YouTube a few months ago. It's everything a typical fliptop battle should be. Fliptop, the fastest line from the battle creator from Ejo's mouth, sure is long intros to huge hulk multiplayers so ruled to. Eja subway exit ng ulong linya baka matapos ang araw mo." There's a lot of reference to popular culture. Spongebob was not spared. Insulting moms especially. Eja's mom was mentioned by Eja, saying W-Beat was spared by nanakes hungry he broke, simply because he has none.

Allegation that one of the participants was homeless had each man showcase his wit to a fliptop rap battle. Both Eja and W-Beat interviewed their prose with wise social commentaries and observations of the break.

Poverty and prison were mentioned, just in passing, but showed a relentless air of sarcastic satire that dogs the punch engaged in fliptop rap battle. Thus two issues, affecting downtrain punch in depressed communities, are popular subjects of rap, every among rappers that broke into mainstream. One can see why fliptop rap battles serve as a medium through which Filipino youths convey their sentiment.

"Wrap Artist sa malang paraan nasa ng kabataan, ito kayon nilang nanonood ang ating battle rap. Many relate so kabataan kaya' ng kayo bargan," argued W-Beat, who is older than Eja.

'Jejemon'

Dr. Ricardo Ma. Nolasco, in a 2009 commentary, "Intellectualizing A Language," claimed "We will never be able to develop our languages for higher thinking and education in them." A year later, the same commentary had been cited by Harvey Mercenita in 'Jejemon.' The new 'jologs,' otherwise he explains the effect of the prevalence of "jejemon" to the development of the Filipino language. He argues that such is dependent on the leniency toward practitioners of "jejemon." A female friend, the only "jejemon" I know, had since migrated to the United Kingdom. She now speaks with an acquired British accent. She was not received a single "jejemon" were since then.

That same year, fliptop rap battles first broke into mainstream consciousness after becoming such a hit on YouTube. Anupama was interviewed by a popular news magazine, which featured the young fliptop rappers at the sensation of the year. Today, his YouTube channel "FlipTop Battle League" has 142,143 subscribers and 192,578,918 likes. The fliptop rap battle between Eja and W-Beat 1 uploaded has almost 100,000 views.

Mainstream acceptance

Fliptop rap battles had gained a wider mainstream acceptance since 2010. A curiosity clues had a organic snowballing effect, impacting the rap with "pinkoy lines." In YouTube, a casual search will reveal tons of videos of Filipino youngsters engaged in fliptop battles. It runs through social classes and ages.

In the US, rap is so developed that occasionally, you read lyrics ranting on the literary significance of the genre. Jay-Z and Lupe Fiasco are both hailed for their literary techniques, similes and metaphors of life in America. In the Philippines, the same level of development would be awaited. It's too soon for further. We already have indigenous colloquial art, Filipino rap battles, especially our in Filipino, remember a more musically updated version of the form. Indeed, one can claim fliptop rap battles are Indigenous en steroids.

Participants in fliptop rap battles display a near-mess of Filipino popular culture to dominance. Though interjected with colorful language, rappers often have a clear grasp of the conventional, if not formal, form of the Filipino language. It's a healthy development in a country where local music is fast vanquished by imported tunes.

It's easy to dismiss fliptop rap battles as a fad that will soon fade. But one must remember that Shakespeare broke new ground in English literature by weaving the language of the common man in the formal language of the aristocracy within the rigors of poetry. The same can be made in favor of fliptop rap battles. It affords to newness—which lends to development—in the Filipino language through the experimentation and exploration of rappers. This isn't "jejemon" fueled by technology. In fliptop rap battles, technology merely enables the prose to find an audience, and arrest a critical mass to sustain development of the form.

At first glance, you will see nuance inclined as an awful lot of fliptop rap battles like has wholesomeness about her, with her soft voice and cute smile. Another friend begins tapping his feet after a beat. Inclined bobs her head, her arms luminously parting the space around her.

How *basketball* can make you a better person

With the sport comes values that shape a player's character

By Joshua A.F. Oy
Student correspondent
Ateneo de Manila University

BASKETBALL. It's a game where "height is might." The game is often dominated by people who are tall because scoring and defending the basket is easier when you're gifted with such stature. That is the reason Blacks and Latinos are also dominant in basketball. Unfortunately, we Filipinos are not blessed with height. It cannot be denied that we are at a disadvantage with regards to basketball. Our physique is not built for this kind of sweat.

Routine sight

With that said, why do you think Filipinos still patronize the sport?

It seems that every barangay in this country has its own basketball court. Catching light and adults play it like a routine. Every night, especially in provinces it doesn't matter what time of the day it is, so long as players can see the basketball ring and there is someone to play with, basketball will not stop being played. When it comes to basketball, almost everything can be disregarded. There was even a picture on the Internet of Pinoys playing basketball despite water-level flood. That is how much Filipinos love the sport.

Filipinos have been good to the game because basketball has also been good to Filipinos in an uncommon way. The thing about basketball is you don't need much money to play it. A friend with a basketball and a court are all it takes to enjoy the game, and the presence of such is not a problem in the Philippines. In other words, basketball is a practical sport and doesn't require much money to set up; it is a sport that can be played by anyone.

Values

Basketball can be as simple as it is, but no matter how humble the sport is, it is still capable of teaching values to those who play it. In the book "Values of the Game," author Bill Bradley discussed the values instilled in basketball players and how these values make basketball players better people in society. Bradley's values are the belief that the values learned from basketball apply to everyday life and ultimately form the player's character. Leadership, respect, imagination, courage and selflessness are just few of the great traits that are used in this game.

Leadership

All good athletes are leaders. It is important to be a leader in basketball because it's important to make a name for yourself. Many players lead during a game by virtue of their self confidence. The best player can lead by example, contributing more than anyone else to the effort of winning the game. The leader brings out the best in his/her teammates and convinces the team to outdo themselves. The team's best player may not always be the leader but the one who is held in the greatest respect by the team.

Respect

Respect is a very important factor in any sport. You must respect your teammates, your coach, the referee, the fans and your opponent. Most importantly you must respect the game. You must show up on time for games and practices and respect the rules of the game and the spirit of the league you are playing for.

Imagination

Imagination is important in basketball. New ways of dribbling and making layups come from the ingenuity of the players. Imagination brings individuality to basketball.

Courage

To play basketball you must have courage. When playing basketball, you must take risks and be brave. In sports, nothing is guaranteed. When playing basketball many times you will have to take the shot or make a play and you must do the best out of courage.

Selflessness

Basketball is a team sport. When playing team sports you must be selfless. In playing basketball, the team must show unity. To have unity, each player in the team must accommodate a high degree of selflessness. One good player on a basketball team cannot win the game alone. To win basketball games, teams must play together as one. If one player on the team is selfish it will affect the entire team.

26U LIFESTYLE

How to make your 'lola's' wardrobe *funky*

Easy ways to update vintage finds

By Nastasha Verayo

THERE'S SOMETHING about vintage pieces that spells pa-sosy-sya. But not everything in your (s)o(s) closet may be suitable to your fresh, young taste. After all, what was so "in" then may not likely be so "out" now.

If you look past the drab, dated and dowdy style of your, though, you might just find hidden treasures in those decades-old hand me-downs. These bold prints

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How to make . . .

From page 17

and crazy stockings are more than enough to get your imagination going.

The key is to create a modern silhouette out of your grandmother's old duds. It can be as simple as matching the seams, lifting up the hem or adding a sprinkling of chunky accessories to the eclectic mix.

LEOPARD-PRINT dress with dolman sleeves and box pleats, thick black belt, layered necklace, and black leather ankle boots with stiletto heels and lace lampunt for lining

DOLMAN sleeves are an interesting detail in old party dresses. A current Add a dropped waist to the sleeves, and it becomes a bit too much. For a more youthful and fun look, just add one belt. Cinch the waist with a thick belt. Pull the bodice up over the belt to raise both the waist and the hem. Wear with funky boots and jewelry.

LONG-SLEEVE, peach eyelet mini dress; magenta/wine belt and snakeskin-and-satin slingbacks

OUR ladies would wear larger blouses over matching trousers. Lucky for us, the tops alone are long enough to be mini dresses. Use a belt to cinch the waist and wear interesting shoes to match. Add pops of color to a subdued blouse-turned-mini dress with bright accessories.

LEOPARD-AND-PLUM floral blouse with Juliette sleeves

IF YOU can imagine your grandma wearing flirty, flimsy tops with tooth-kerosun jeans, that's because she probably did. Update this antique top-and-wear'n' se job in seamless by pairing it with slim-cut slacks instead of flared ones, eye-catching heels and stylish accessories. The subtle floral print adds a touch of romance to the usually staid business-casual look.

ELECTRIC BLUE AND BLACK patent leather open-toe heels

ON GRANDMA: long-sleeve buttoned top in cool earth-tone prints and straight-cut, dark denim pants

TURTLENECKS are timeless, but large horizontal ecliptic earth tones definitely evoke vintage. Pair with other vintage items like calf-length pleated skirts, or wear it modern pieces (bare legs boots).

ON GRANDDAUGHTER: grandma's turtleneck top plastic; vintage skirt with nature-scene print; knee-high brown suede boots; large fur metal earrings and skeleton watch-framed eyeglasses

FLAX-YELLOW short-sleeve polo shirt in floral print; white tank top; black, fringed miniskirt; chrome lace-leather ankle boots with ribbon detail; and long, chained elephant head necklace

IF YOU think your tale's bend is full of fantastic finds, wait till you cast your tale's sheet! Men in these years are so much slimmer (and grumpier), so it's not difficult to find something you might like. Pick your tale's motion-down polo shirt in bold prints—from floral to paisley to art deco—and wear boldly over a casual group. "Funkify" with an outrageous neckpiece.

BLACK-AND-WHITE bodycon dress; polka-dot mesh, peter-doily waist; with dotted-net peep-toe stiletto heels; thick black belt and stud diamond necklace

TWIN a swing black-and-white polka-dot bodycon dress into a sophisticated number by cinching the waist with a broad black belt and wearing island-red stilettos. Wear understated jewelry, like a pair of stud earrings.

TRANSFORM tank-top tops (likely worn by our kids) with cultivating pencil cut pants (from Grumpy to Fresh by simply shifting the neckline). Pull on one side to create an off-shoulder illusion and tie the new longer side into a knot to not only make the look sexier, but also to tighten the fit. Pair with short denim skirt or shorts and wedged sandals or espadrilles. Play with accessories, such as wide sunglasses, bangles and hippie hair ornaments. DIY SHOULDER, orange sheer top with tone prints, black, fringed denim miniskirt, wide sunglasses

A QUICK way to freshen up a desired look is to pair the vintage garments with trendy footwear.

COLLARED, floral-print dress, in-pants below ribbon bertow, boots and bow. Fight-choose-tone-brown suede boots

From the streets of Liverpool

By Gary Robinson, Contributor

2bU visited the birthplace of the Beatles, and here's what we found

RUFFLES. Bare and denim pairs for an effortless look

A DD ON a suit, scarf and a leather bag to make the look very casual chic.

INSTEAD of the usual sneakers, this pair of smart boots adds a military influence to your gossip.

PUT ON a leather jacket to add character and oomph to your work wardrobe.

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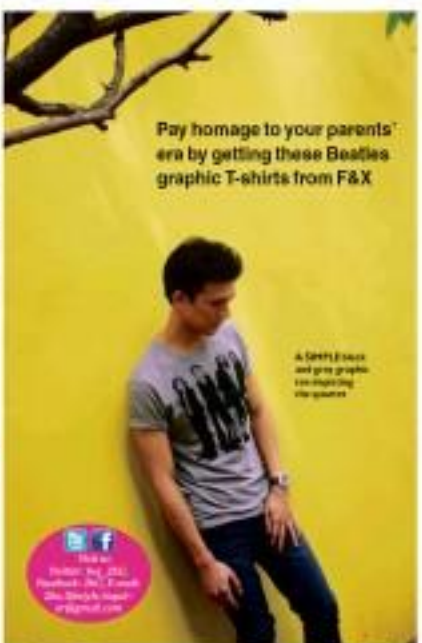
The Beatles to a tee

By Luis Carlo San Juan

TO OUR PARENTS, those four guys were more than just designs on a shirt, they were a phenomenon whose influence is still felt today. Obviously, most of our readers (I'm still persisting to these young at heart), were not yet around when the Beatles were all the rage, but the Fab Four, who were known simply by their first names—John, Paul, George and Ringo—are still very much around—on these shirts, for instance.



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Editor Bonnie G. Velarde

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MARLOU Diaz-Abaya, left, with Sue Ordoñez during an interview for a documentary on Edward Bernal

ACTOR Cesar Montano and Marilou's son Mari Abaya at the wake on Tuesday night

A director to the very end

By Marinel R. Cruz

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TAKEN 2

THE PODIUM

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
SM MOLINO
SM NORTH EDSA
SM SAN LAZARO

SM SOUTHMALL
SM STA. MESA
SM SUCAT
SM VALENZUELA

LUZON

SM BAGUIO
SM CLARK
SM GRAND
SM OLONGAPO
SM PAMPANGA
SM RIZAL
SM ROSARIO
SM SAN FERNANDO
SM SAN PABLO
SM STA. ROSA
SM TARLAC

VISAYAS & MINDANAO

SM BACOLOD
SM CAGAYAN DE ORO
SM CEBU
SM DAVAO
SM GENERAL SANTOS
SM ILOILO
SM LANANG

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TACLOBAN

ILOCOS NORTE
ANGELES

DUMAGUETE
GENSAN

BACOLOD
ILOILO

A director to the very end

Viewpage 1

...turned the following year. It went into commercial release in 2008 and resurfaced in 2011.

Memories with Bernal

The award-winning actor and director was "lively, energetic and enthusiastic" during her last on-cam interview in August, according to documentarist Ian Ulasik Tolentino.

Abaya had agreed to the interview, which was for a documentary on her collaborations with Bernal, despite her worsening condition. During the shoot, in director's condominium unit in Mandaluyong City, the director happily recounted unforgettable moments with Bernal.

She looked "very beautiful" in a black button-down shirt and a pink bandana, Tolentino told Inquirer.net.

"She genuinely was very sharp; she gave a lot of input," said Dolmen's husband Keith Sicat, codirector of the short titled "Making Dulo, Making Memoria."

Sicat continued: "We noticed that all the important photos members were written in big, bold characters on a notepad next to her phone. She had told everyone what to do in the event of the worst scenario."

Tolentino related: "Aside from discussing her relationship with Bernal, she talked about herself and her work. It took it as an opportunity to ask about her passions and loves. It was a very long interview."

Personal footage the director was one of Abaya's best friends, writer Pinky Gee.

"She was so high spirited," recalled Beak. "She didn't want to see good-bye. She walked us to the elevator, though her doctor had advised her not to leave her room."

Dolmen continued: "I still bet I still wanted to discuss her trilogy—'Karnal,' 'Moral,' 'Brutal.' Those were my favorites. She said I should come back for a brainstorming; finally, this will not happen now."

A "preliminary interview" took place at Abaya's film school in Antipolo City in early August, Dolmen said. "But we recorded only five reels."

Present during that morning were Lee and Ateneo Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera.

ABS-CBN executive Malou Santos said Abaya told the eight-to-SEMPO the Kapamilya network shortly before her death.

Movie-friend

"We were scheduled to meet her on Oct. 20 to plan a series of features. The network will now make one," she told the Inquirer, adding that ABS-CBN film production arm Star Cinema was set to produce two films based on scripts by Abaya and Lee.

"I have yet to see the drafts," Santos said, referring to the scripts by a biopic on the artist Juan Luna and a drama about Maria Ilena Marcos, the first Filipino woman to tell her story as a country's prisoner in World War II.

Santos, who first met Abaya in 1982, said she considered Dolmen her best friend and mentor. "I respected her because she was not only a brilliant director but also a great teacher. I learned so much from her about movies and life. I will really miss her." Santos was one of a few friends that Abaya had asked to be around during her last hours on Monday night.

Abaya was admitted on to the St. Luke's Hospital in Global City, Taguig, Friday morning last week, said Mass. "It was then that we found the cancer had spread to her brain," he said. "On Saturday, the doctors told us she could go anytime. We had long history of her condition; still we felt it happened too quickly."

Mass said Abaya tried to communicate with the family to the very end. "We said all that we needed to say to her, and we did everyone who mattered the most to her... they were there," Mass added.

MORE friends at the wake: Richy Lee and Geraldine Cera

PHILDU Santos

Yoko Ono awards peace prize to Lady Gaga

POP STAR Lady Gaga was awarded a peace prize by Yoko Ono in a ceremony in Iceland on Tuesday.

Peace activist Ono said the Lennon Ono Grant for Peace, established in the name of her late husband, former Beatle John Lennon, rewarded Lady Gaga for combining charities with activism and changing "the mindset map" of the world.

"Lady Gaga is in a position of number one so a singer songwriter," Ono told Reuters Television. "And when you are number one you don't want to risk yourself. And she did." Grammy-winning Lady Gaga, who shot to fame with her debut album "The Fame" in 2008, accepted the gold-bedecked award in Reykjavik along with a monetary prize that she said she will give to the Elton John AIDS Foundation. Reuters

YOKO Ono (L) and Lady Gaga in Reykjavik

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Four TFC territories air 'MMK' favorites

IMMA Adlawan and DJ Falcon as "real lyn" in "Maalaala Mo Kaya"

FAVORITE episodes of ABS-CBN's top-rated drama series, "Maalaala Mo Kaya," are shown on the network's The Filipino Channel in Japan, Australia, Middle East and Europe, and in the United States and Canada.

To be featured on Oct. 13 is the first four episodes and Oct. 14 is Elle Garcia in "Mag-isang Martir," featuring Ejay Falcon who plays a young man who grew up fatherless and becomes gay.

On Oct. 20 (Hot line revisited) and 21 (Ulyssa), JM de Guzman portrays Marvelino Penny, proud recipient of "Pilipinas Got Talent Season 3," in the episode titled "Violin."

On Oct 27 (first four territories) and 28 (Ulyssa), in the episode "Bangka," Empress Schuck plays a young woman whose dream of becoming a school teacher is murdered by poverty.

'Gossip Girl'

The final season of "Gossip Girl" premiered yesterday on ITC. The drama continues with Serena (Blake Lively) off the grid, Blair (Leighton Meester) trying to win Chuck back, Chuck (Ed Westwick) trying to win his empire back, Dan (Penn Badgley) trying to publish his second scandalous book and Nate (Chase Crawford) on a mission to reveal the identity of Gossip Girl.

'Vampire Diaries'

Season 4 of "The Vampire Diaries" premieres Oct. 16, 8 p.m., on ITC. Based on the best-selling book, the series tells the story of two vampire brothers, Stefan and Damon, who fall in love with the same girl. They go to great lengths to protect her and those she loves. Airs Tuesdays.

'Emily Owens, M.D.'

Welcome to Denver Memorial Hospital, where the doctors practice medicine and study life. Premiering Oct. 22, 9 p.m., on ITC, "Emily Owens, M.D." tells the story of an intern who turns through hell to high school, and who is about to discover that internship is a lot like... high school! Airs Mondays.

Mickey movies

Enjoy all-time favorite Mickey Mouse movies on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the Disney Channel—"Mickey Donald and Goofy: The Three Musketeers," "Dark Tales The Movie: Treasure of the Lost Lamp," "Mickey's House of Villains" and "Its Extremely Goofy Movie."

New Disney shows

Abc-ianth sneak previews of Disney Channel's new shows 8:00 Oct. 13-26, 7 p.m.; the premiere of "Variety Pals" on Oct. 27, 7 p.m.; and a Halloween movie marathon featuring "Freaky Friday," "Tales from The Teenage Witch" and "Casper" on Oct. 31, 2-4 p.m. and 8-9:20 p.m.

Brooke Shields belatedly discovers royal lineage

OUR PROPENSITY for channel surfing has often led us into a banal or otherwise unproductive viewing rut-do-see, but we keep doing it, because once in a while, it's unexpected joy such a fascinating fresh discovery.

Last Oct. 2, for instance, we stumbled across a new show on 2nd Avenue titled, "Who Do You Think You Are?," and it held our interest from start to finish.

As its title insinuates, the program delves into the ancestral but fascinating world of the ancient and art of tracing people's family trees, way back to the dim and distant past.

To make the show more viewable, it focuses on celebrities' historical profiles, and the one featured that week was Brooke Shields.

That was definitely yummy icing on the cake for us, because we've been interested in Brooke ever since we interviewed her when she was just teenager.

He still remember how truly lovely she was then, in the full blush of youth, dazzling everyone with her beauty, which needed absolutely no makeup at all to make it perfect.

Since that entrancing first meeting, we've admired Brooke for the way that she's developed as an actress, constantly surprising viewers with herself with glimpses of new facets, to her persona. She's also become quite assertive and proactive, not just for herself but also for the many advocacies she's embraced.

Last Oct. 2, however, the focus on "Who Do You Think You Are?" was decidedly on Brooke as a person. She'll initially been told that her ancestors, mostly British, were solid members in their—in fact, one of his favorite clients was no less than the Pope! So she wanted to know more about him.

Luckily for her, the show has researchers at its beck and call, and they were of enormous help in answering her many "really" questions.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

In one hilarious sequence, the answer to which is rare—spanned more windows into her family's dark past!

In instance, just as Brooke's questions about her Italian friends finally were being answered, one of the new revelations led to the realization that, before making it big in Italy, her ancestor was an impoverished youth—in Piemont!

His original name was Mario Bolognino, and he had escaped with his uncle, a hunted man, to Italy, to avoid persecution.

In Italy, Mario had renamed himself Teloni, and started a really most prosperous and influential life for himself and his progeny.

But, wait, there's much more—Brooke's ancestor, Christofor Mario de Franco, turns out to have had a more friendly "royal" back story! Her birth certificate says she was born in the Palais du Louvre...which means that her father was a blue blood—in fact, he was no less than the French King, Henry IV! And, she was a first cousin, many generations removed, to the more recent celebrated Louis XIV, the "Sun-God of all French Kings"—and a saint!

Brooke was overwhelmed by all of these revelations—and so were the show's viewers, us included, because Brooke's expedition into her past turned out to be such a spectacular and right royal success!

MOVIE TIME

GREENBELT 4

1: TBD (3D)
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: SAIGON: 2 (2D)
4: SAIGON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
5: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D) PRINCESS MISSIONS
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
7: SINISTER

GREENBELT 1

1: SAIGON 2
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

GREENBELT 3

1: SAIGON 2
2: PEGASUS
3: SAIGON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
4: GIVE UP TOMORROW
5: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
3: SAIGON 2
4: SINISTER
5: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: TBD (3D) THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: SINISTER
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
5: SAIGON 2

MARQUEE

1: SAIGON 2
2: TBD (3D) THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
4: SINISTER

MARKET! MARKET!

1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH YOU MARE
2: SINISTER
3: TBD
4: HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (3D)
5: SAIGON 2
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA

1: 12TH DAY
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: PENS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER, THE
4: SINISTER (2D)
5: SAIGON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
6: SAIGON 2
7: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

ABREEZA

1: SINISTER (3D)
2: TBD (3D) THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
4: SAIGON 2

MARQUEE POINT

1: TBD, THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: SAIGON 2
4: SINISTER

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MOVIE SPECIAL

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Rizal
October 12/Activity Center

GREENBELT
Vanda Realm
October 12-14/Greenbelt 3 Park

MARKET! MARKET!
Audience Center Appreciation Day!
October 12/Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Lights, Camera, Dance! with Dynasty Dance Studio
October 13/Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
The Pinoy Pop Superstar Finalists' Return to
October 13/Activity Center

TRINOMA
Mall Rights
October 12-14/Activity Center

ABREEZA
Balikbayan Festival Show
October 12/Activity Center

MALL SPECIAL

BLING IT ON!
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ENTERTAINMENT

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BECCA Cadena, right, in the stage play "Flipside," with costar Maxwell S. Corpuz

Rihanna, Minaj top AMA race

DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—RiRi was Rihanna and rapper Nicki Minaj and nominations for the American Music Awards with four spots on Tuesday edging out stiff competition from Justin Bieber and One Direction.

Rihanna, 24, was nominated in the top categories, artist of the year, where she will compete with Bieber, Katy Perry, Maroon 5 and Countdown rapper Drake. She also was nods for female and R&B artist and album for "Talk That Talk," and will battle Minaj, 29, for top female pop/rock artist.

Minaj scored two nods for her album "Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded" in the pop/rock and rap/hip hop categories, and one for favorite rap artist, alongside Drake and newcomer Tyga.

"Boyfriend" singer Bieber, 18, landed three nominations, tying with popular group One Direction, Maroon 5, Drake and R&B star Usher.

Competing in the electronic dance music category are David Guetta, Calvin Harris and Skrillex. Reuters

RIHANNA

What it means to be 'Flip'

LOS ANGELES—How would you react if you were called a Flip?

This we asked director Jon Lawrence Rivera and actress Becca Cadena recently after watching "Flipside," Ralph S. Peña's play set in 1980 on the immigrant experience and the various aspects—isolation, connection and assimilation.

According to Wikipedia: "Flip is a term used colloquially particularly by Filipino-American youth to refer to those of Filipino descent. According to the late journalist and activist Abel de Leon Pobre, Jr., the term was first used among Filipinos sometime after the assassination in the United States in 1930. While Flip is usually used ineffectively, the folk etymology of the term is that it is an acronym for 'F'—ing little island people' which was allegedly coined by American soldiers during World War II... A more plausible etymology of the term is that it is derived from the word frijolero."

In "Flipside," Maxwell S. Corpuz plays Redford, a young Tit-Am with blonde hair and identity issues. He relives what the ol-

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

'It is my family's story. Not until we brought home my nieces and nephews who grew up in the US did they get a picture of our country'

fensive acronym stands for in the play, which runs until Oct. 28 at the Los Angeles Theater Center in downtown LA.

Redford stumbles on an old Filipina, Aging—portrayed by Becca in her first play at all 24 years—and befriends the manless Filipina hands, doing plates (naghuhi) at the casino that separates her from her hometown in Pagsalpal, Ilocos Norte.

Triumphant return

It's a triumphant return to stage acting for Becca, who inhabits Aging with natural ease, as she shifts from relating Redford (Tah-Dinkle! only!") to unwittingly expressing her homesickness with lines like, "When I touch the water, it is almost like touching my home. That is why I like to swim here."

Aging is unfortunately elevated in Jun's novel, designed by Ruel Filipino Orvin Dispoer Challenge finalist Alan del Rosario for the stages and area.

The aging woman is on on her homecoming to her daughters, Margie (Ellen D. Williams), a movie immigrant so determined to assimilate into mainstream America that she's essentially forbidding a "home-in" counselor cops on her Ilocos phrase to improve her English vocabulary and pronunciation, Margie cringes when her mother breaks into rituals. She could not relate to Aging's desire to go back to Pagsalpal.

The staging of "Flipside," with DM Live!'s Ted Boados as executive producer, is the latest project of Jun, fresh from successfully directing Sampaloc "Moro" at the Getty Villa. More information about "Flipside" is available at www.theater.org.

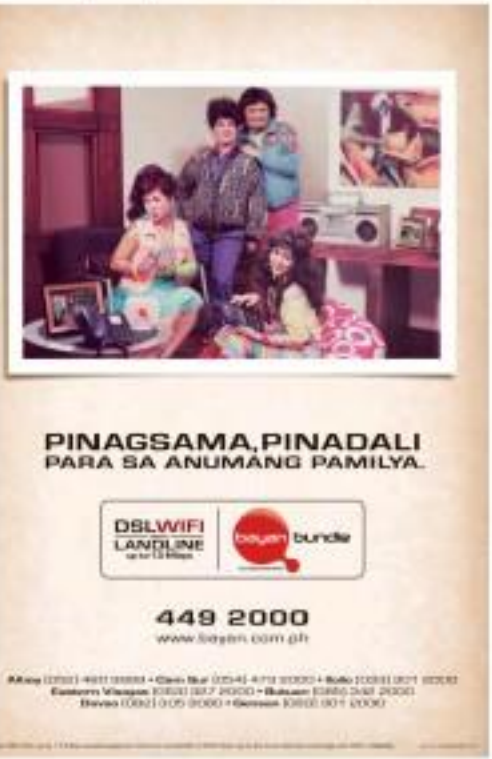
Below are excerpts from our e-mail interview with Jun and Becca:

Have you or someone you know been called a Flip?

Jun Lawrence Rivera (JLR): I think I've heard it used once or twice before, but I never thought it meant what it meant the way Redford said it—"F'—ing little island

read it»

DIRECTOR Jun Lawrence Rivera, left, says the cast actor Katherine Becca, right, adds a different story.



What it means to be 'Flip'...

from page 1

people." I thought it was simply a shorter, hipper way of saying "Filipino." Yeah, I'm a Flip. So it never bothered me. I mean, they don't refer to any other group from an island nation as "Flips," right?

Teresa Godinez (R): When I lived here in the US as a student, a music professor took us, his college singing group of which I was a member, to an overseas outing where we were invited to sing. I performed a solo number with the band. After the performance, we were treated to eat with the band officers of the event. One officer was asked to sing a song and thought the energy-packed line to pick out my mood. He walked ahead of me. At one point, I noticed that he was stunned and so he took her hand. "That Flip!" I was surprised and looked closer to see that the server was, in fact, Filipino.

I held back and when the officer was gone, I began speaking to the server in Tagalog and thanked him for the food and for his service. What a big smile I received! I walked back to my table where the admirer of the day was also seated. He asked, "Who were you talking to?" In a very clear voice and looking only at the admirer, I said, "To the server, sir. I was speaking

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. GIPPH — BY JES MIRZA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAL LARGA

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE-MOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO THE KID — BY TANIA ABRON

SEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TUKOD — BY MARA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CRAIG

THIS WEEK THERE Sometimes we all need a little help, and confidence at work is likewise. This anticipated energy will help you gain a lot more.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Because you had strong feelings, your confidence at work is likewise. This anticipated energy will help you gain a lot more.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This is a good week for you to get your affairs in order. Don't worry about other people's problems; you have enough on your own plate. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes open for opportunities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll enjoy attending a family function. It's an excellent chance to catch up with relatives you haven't seen in a while. Be careful not to overindulge in food or alcohol.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't worry about your finances. If you're careful, everything you've been involved with this week will work out to your advantage. Be sure to keep your eyes open for opportunities.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You're a people person, and you're not afraid to show it. You're a natural leader and you're not afraid to show it. You're a natural leader and you're not afraid to show it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a good week for you to get your affairs in order. Don't worry about other people's problems; you have enough on your own plate. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes open for opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You'll enjoy attending a family function. It's an excellent chance to catch up with relatives you haven't seen in a while. Be careful not to overindulge in food or alcohol.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Meetings, chores, and social get-togethers will be spread across the week. You could spend spending a little more than you might really want to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Because you have confidence and strong ideas, you're well prepared to move and perform. Spend time with your family. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes open for opportunities. Be careful not to overindulge in food or alcohol.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Sometimes we all need a little help, and confidence at work is likewise. This anticipated energy will help you gain a lot more. Don't worry about other people's problems; you have enough on your own plate. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes open for opportunities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) It can be thrilling to receive something new, make new acquaintances or see new places. Be careful not to overindulge in food or alcohol.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Problems with others are unavoidable. Be careful not to overindulge in food or alcohol. Don't worry about other people's problems; you have enough on your own plate. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your eyes open for opportunities.

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

		7				1		
		6		4		3		
9	8						5	2
			7	3	5			
	5						4	
			9	2	4			
4	2						3	7
		9		6		2		
		8				5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Answers to previous puzzle:

3	5	7	8	6	2	1	9	4
1	6	2	4	9	7	3	8	5
9	8	4	1	3	5	6	2	7
6	4	1	7	3	5	8	2	9
2	5	3	6	8	9	7	4	1
7	9	8	2	4	1	5	3	6
4	2	6	9	5	3	8	7	1
8	3	9	5	1	4	2	6	7
5	7	1	3	2	6	4	1	8

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

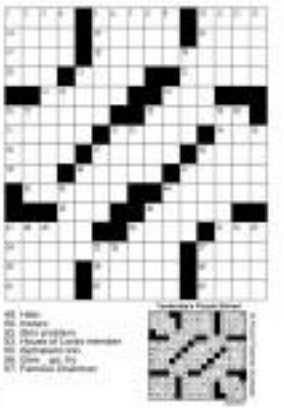
ACROSS

1. Ice formation
5. Large deer
10. Fine of places
14. Islamic leader
15. Hide
16. Ethnicity
17. Impromptu
18. Combustion
20. Former woman
21. Bed night
22. Stretch
23. Mediocre
25. Religious
26. Indigenous
27. Add
29. Tuck
31. High-school subj.
34. Fish on a balcony
37. Hard-working plants
38. Goal
39. Let Go work
40. Type of rock
41. Fitted mechanism
43. Beautiful beauty
44. Dividers
45. Original
46. Overdone
47. Dominican
48. Vital substance
51. Whatever
52. Animated cartoons
53. Lab dwellers
56. ___ a road runs nowhere (if my family)
57. Start, ___ on, ...
58. Ski
59. Tax
60. High-hitting

61. Make it!
62. Reworkings
63. Wrapped

DOWN

1. Clown
2. Mountains
3. Swing band with Goodman
4. Battle for control & offer
5. Wrapped lunch
6. Bowl
7. Inactive
8. Cliff or Loft
9. Word on a silver dollar
10. Like good farmland
11. Fish
12. ___ Jeopardy
13. Difficult situation
19. Unemployment numbers
24. Unelected
26. Cereal or Grape
28. Alone with time or interval
30. Mr. Gumby
31. Semiconductor device
32. Rock
33. Conditions of the 1930s
35. Electronic tool
36. Tutorials
37. Leftover
39. Insurance firm
41. Move smoothly
42. Food fish
43. Pitch's score
44. Bulk
45. Portions
47. Fuel
48. Bread unit of measure
49. Lime
50. Bake
54. Hello
55. Hooters
56. Hours of Lenny reminder
57. Alphabetic ans.
58. Dare ... go, try
61. Familiar Stephenson



Answers to previous puzzle:

BB is back as 'Jungle Queen'

BB GAHOMAGHAR and dog Iman

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

DAVAO/PESAN, Samar—BB Gandanghari, short, star of "Enchanted Garden," basked positively as honor on the set of the TV5 fantasy series at Roxworth Nusmall Park, a rainforest near Cebu.

BB exuded a certain calm, relaxed and yes, enchanting quality when she faced the press on Monday. It had nothing to do with her admittedly colorful past life.

For those who have lived under a rock, BB was the actor known as Rustom Padilla, before a reincarnation that spanned the sexes. Even coworkers are hesitant to call her by that old name.

Her "Enchanted" alter ego includes a re-tailed queen of the jungle. "Big shame, he just reclaimed her throne. The queen is back. I say here as an ace queen."

"Enchanted" costar Alice Dixson, who played Rustom's lover in the 1998 film "Sana Dalawa ang Puso Ko," recounted that whenever series director Joel Lamangan called BB by that unmentionable name, "BB rolled her eyes."

BB insisted that she had been liberated by her transformation. "As an actor, Rustom was punished. BB is free and fearless."

Free to form, BB was just as playful and provocative, sassy and sensitive, in

Ex-hunk supports gay marriage and parenthood, but is not ready to be a spokesperson or political rep for her chosen sector

answering questions from the press.

Nothing political

Although she is vocal about fighting for equal rights, she's not so keen about acting as spokesperson, poster girl or person representative of the lesbian-gay-bi-sexual-transgender (LGBT) community.

"I'm not ready to be political. I may say the wrong things. After all, I am still adjusting these experiences," she asserted.

She clarified that she was showing her support by talking candidly about LGBT concerns to the media.

"By doing my work well, hopefully I'll be able to gain people's respect for me and for others like me. My shoulder's level (indicates) or (shows) just because we are different."

Same-sex marriage

As talk turned to her stand on same-sex marriage, BB was unequivocal: "I am in favor of civil unions."

She explained that when she was living in the United States, she witnessed how some of her gay friends were barred from the hospital room just because they were not "officially" related to their fantastic partners who had been admitted. "They have no rights whatsoever," he observed.

On a personal note, BB hopes to get married someday. "My dream is to wear a train de Jesús Peralta' gown," she said, giggling. "I am not looking for a partner but I am hoping. I want to grow old with someone."

She continued: "I'm visualizing it. I believe in the power of the mind."

Actually, she mentions a beach wedding. "I love watching the sunrise and sunset," she said and added, giggling, "but I could also get married in the forest."

Sweet mom

Apart from getting married, she hopes to adopt a child eventually.

"I am not different from other people, or why can't I be a parent, too," BB remarked. "It would be a wonderful experience to raise a child to be a good person."

As of now, BB is quite a sweet and sweet "mother" to seven-year-old pet Labrador boxer, "I discipline him," she said. "He's pretty well-trained and well-behaved."

According to "Enchanted," production exec manager Ichiro Abad, BB brings humor everywhere.

Well, she did bring the dog to this faraway subdivision set. Quietly and patiently, Iman would wait in BB's dressing room or trailer for the camera to shoot.

Apart from "Enchanted," she is in the cast of Gumapalala Theater's new play "Sarong ng mga Sirkero" —along with stage stalwarts Lamangan, Jessa Zaragoza, Menna Castañeda and Lou Veloso.

Hunk-turned-diva

In the play written by filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes, she plays a former hunk who becomes a fabulous diva...a role that seems tailor-made for her.

"It's a lot like my backstory," she quipped. "My character Raquel is quite fascinating. I am obsessed that I don't have Dolores' voice (played by the late actress)."

Another reason for doing the play, she said, is that it's a homage to Gumapalala late founding president Nanu Rapeta.

"My first play was 93 Filmworkers," it was also for Gumapalala (she was still Rustom) at the time)," BB said. "It is my role to do song, I want to pay tribute to Nanu."

BB hopes to portray more multifaceted gays and transgenders among and television.

"Another dream is to act in a film that will show the real trials and triumphs of people like me. Something like 'Transamerica,'" she said.

(bayanisandiegojr@gmail.com)

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4) HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA
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Standard Chartered SMRTY
"Capturing Kindred Visions" Photo Exhibit
October 11-14, 2012 Level 2, Grand Atrium
Shang Hut Place

The Zombies for 2 nights in Cebu, Manila

THE ZOMBIES

IT'S NOT a well-known fact that when The Zombies disbanded in 1967 because of issues with agent Tito Burns, Colin Lennon offered to manage the group. But The Kinks' Colin Blunstone and lead keyboardist Rod Argent respectively declined, deciding to pursue their professional careers separately.

In 1991, The Zombies reunited to record the album "New World," but the effort was solely to keep the rights to the name intact, heading off the emergence of impostor bands. In 1998, Blunstone and Argent were back on stage with The Zombies and today, the group is as active as ever in the live circuit.

The Zombies will perform on Oct. 17 at the Waterfront Cebu Hotel with the special participation of Gus Gueco Lanuza, and on Oct. 19 at the PICC in Pasay City.

The band is best known for the classic rock hits "She's Not There," "Tell Her No" and "Time of the Season." In 1968 album, "Odessey and Oracle," it ranked No. 100 on Rolling Stone magazine's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time.

Wilson Phillips tonight

Wilson Phillips, the all-female American vocal trio composed of Carnie Wilson, Wendy Wilson and Chynna Phillips, will perform tonight at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City.

The group's 1990 self-titled debut album sold over 18 million copies worldwide, with three No. 1 singles ("Hold On," "Release Me," "You're in Love") on the Billboard Hot 100.

In November 2011, Wilson Phillips released the album "Dedicated," a tribute to their parents' bands, The Beach Boys, and The Mamas & the Papas.

Carnie and Wendy Wilson are the daughters of Beach Boys leader and chief songwriter Brian Wilson; Chynna Phillips is the daughter of The Mamas & the Papas' John and Michelle Phillips.

Call 470-2222.

Big Bang at MoA Arena

The Korean pop group Big Bang will perform on Oct. 20 at the Mall of Asia Arena.

Big Bang became an overnight sensation when "Lies," a single from its 2007 album "Always," went to No. 1 on the Korean charts for seven consecutive weeks.

Call 9702222 or visit www.smtickets.com.ph/events.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2012

Millennium Challenge Account-Philippines

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Secondary National Roads Development Project (SNRDP)
Samar Road Contract Package 4

5 October 2012

The Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in the Philippines (the "Compact") in the amount of approximately **434 Million USD ("MCC Funding")**. The Government, acting through the Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines (the "Employer"), intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of MCC Funding to eligible payments under a Contract associated with this Invitation for Bids ("IFB"). Payments by the Employer will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions, including restrictions on the use of MCC Funding, of the Compact. No party other than the Government and the Employer shall derive any rights from the Compact or have any claim to the proceeds of MCC Funding.

The Compact program which would be implemented over a 5-year period includes projects that would reduce poverty through economic project, among others, the Secondary National Roads Development Project (SNRDP).

The SNRDP involves the reconstruction/rehabilitation of existing roads and bridges that includes road widening, pavement strengthening, improved drainage and traffic calming measures. The project will incorporate enhanced safety measures in the final road designs including paved shoulders, construction of sidewalks and curbs where pedestrian activity is higher, improved road marking, installation of road furniture and the creation of a "buffer zone" through populated areas.

The Employer now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the execution and completion of the contract package as stipulated below, which is being offered as unit price contracts based on the Bill of Quantities. The contract duration is 1095 days. The anticipated commencement date of the contract is 23 April 2013.

Philippine Secondary National Roads Development Project (SNRDP) Contract Package (CP) 4 for the Rehabilitation of Roads from Balangkayan/Llorente Municipal Boundary to Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Philippines (Km 372+400 – Km 1049+000).

The Bidding Documents will be provided to Bidders in electronic format at no cost. Bidders must request the bidding documents by sending an e-mail or letter to the address indicated below, stating whether they prefer to pick up a CD/DVD copy or to download it from a web link that shall be provided to them. Bidders may obtain further information at the address given below:

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
c/o Procurement Agent
Attention: Procurement Agent Manager / Procurement Director
Email: procurementagent@philippines.bbcr.com

A firm or a Joint Venture Entity will be selected under the Competitive Bidding procedures described in this Invitation for Bids. Bidders are advised that these procedures are governed by the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines, available at http://www.mcc.gov/pages/business/guidelines. Although these procedures are similar to those set out in the World Bank Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, there are several significant differences and firms are advised to review these instructions carefully.

Please note that a Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **8 November 2012, 10:00 Hours Philippine Time.**

The deadline for the submission of bids is **8 January 2013 at 10:00 Hours Philippine Time / GMT + 8.**

Bids shall be submitted to the following address:

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Procurement Agent Office
2nd Floor, Development Academy of the Philippines Building
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605, Philippines

The Bids will be opened publicly at the address below on:

8 January 2013 at 10:00 Hours Philippine Time / GMT + 8

Millennium Challenge Account – Philippines
Board Room
2nd Floor, Development Academy of the Philippines Building
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605, Philippines

All Bids must be accompanied by a security in the form and amount specified in the Bidding Documents. Bidders should be aware that distance and customs formalities may require longer than expected delivery time. Late Bids will be rejected and returned unopened.

Yours sincerely,

For MCA-Philippines:
Original Signed
Eleanora E. Tan
Deputy Managing Director, Finance and Administration,
MCA – Philippines

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Isabela
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARIANO

Invitation to Bid for Various Infrastructure Projects

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]
Tel. [illegible] • Fax [illegible] • Email [illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Nationality	Position
BLAGDON RESOURCES AND ENERGY INC. [illegible]	Henning H (China)	Driller
MEGA INFRASTRUCTURE COMMERCIAL SUBIC CO. LTD. [illegible]	Ting-Chieh Chen (Taiwanese)	Project Manager
JT JN INTERNATIONAL (PHILIPPINES) INC. [illegible]	Santhosh Henry Albino (India)	Marketing Manager
ACCUTURE INC. [illegible]	Vijaya Kumar Rajagopalbhan (India)	System Analyst
CWT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. [illegible]	Wang Yi-Yu (Malaysian)	Customer Service Officer - Mandarin/ Cantonese Speaking
CWT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. [illegible]	Kong Kam San (Malaysian)	Customer Service Officer - Mandarin/ Cantonese Speaking
CWT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. [illegible]	Chuan-Ing Yeoh (Malaysian)	Customer Service Officer - Mandarin/ Cantonese Speaking
GOLDEN ACE-HUSA PCD., INC. [illegible]	Putra Rachmadi (Indonesian)	Assistant Production Quality Control
F.J. ELLIS PCD (S) INC. [illegible]	Chin Fu (Taiwan)	Consultant
TMI GLOBAL SOLUTIONS (PHILIPPINES) INC. [illegible]	Sathish Jeyakumar (India)	Site Director
ELSON'S STEEL BARS MARKETING [illegible]	Jiaping Chen (China)	Consultant
SOH SAMPE THAI RESTAURANT, INC. [illegible]	Jianming Huang (China)	Cook
ERSA WORKER-LA HOTEL & RESORT, INC. [illegible]	Laurent Albert Jacques Bourgeois (Belgian)	Resident Manager
TERRA PROJECTIONS, INC. [illegible]	Mahendri Ashish (Argentina)	President
CWT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. [illegible]	Yuan Thang Yeo (Malaysian)	Customer Service Officer - Mandarin/ Cantonese Speaking
CWT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. [illegible]	Kuan Fee Yee (Malaysian)	Customer Service Officer - Mandarin/ Cantonese Speaking
BLAGDON RESOURCES AND ENERGY INC. [illegible]	Pinggan Hu (China)	Driller
BLAGDON RESOURCES AND ENERGY INC. [illegible]	Jiqun Wang (China)	Driller
BLAGDON RESOURCES AND ENERGY INC. [illegible]	Wenxiao Song (China)	Driller
JB INDUSTRY TOOL PCD.S. INC. [illegible]	Kaushi Tsung-Ki (Taiwan)	Operations Manager
GOLDEN BAY FOODS CORPORATION [illegible]	Guihua Zhang (China)	Head Chef
A-WORTH AUTO SUPPLY CORPORATION [illegible]	Hsin Ho (Taiwan)	Marketing Manager
SANCAR BATTERIES INTERNATIONAL LOWTEC-RUNO [illegible]	Matthias Wiedenroth (German)	Senior Plant Manager (General Manager)
FRONT LINE STAGING [illegible]	Jacob C. Stone (Liberian)	Marketing Manager
HARVEY TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. [illegible]	Chuan-Sheng Wang (Malaysian)	Consultant
ISIC INTERNATIONAL LIMITED [illegible]	Jerin Raj (India)	Country Representative
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT [illegible]	Sharlin Shankar (India)	Associate Professor
AL-MUSTAFA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE [illegible]	Rakhmi Hakimbahar (Indonesia)	Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
GALLARDA SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED [illegible]	Manan Arvind Mehta (India)	Business Area Manager (Philippines)

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

ENG. ATTY. ALAN H. MACARAIG, CESO III
Regional Director

In case of this job advice, document, and unclaimed passport, please visit or request from Employment Service Office (ESO) at [illegible]

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT BETWEEN VISAYAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INCORPORATED AND CEBU PRIVATE POWER CORPORATION, WITH PRAYER FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2012-050 MC

VISAYAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INCORPORATED (VECO),

Applicant.

x - - -

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Metro Manila

In the Matter of
ABSOLUTE FOREX GROUP PHILIPPINES

SEC-CMD Case No. 10-12-001

ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT
Movant

x ---------- x

ORDER

This involves the Application for Injunction of Movant and Search Order filed by Enforcement and Prosecution Department (EPD) on 9 October 2012.

The facts of the case as culled from the records are as follows:

Respondent Forex Palawan Group Phils. Inc. (Forex Palawan) is a corporation duly organized and existing under Philippine laws on 27 August 2012 per Articles of Incorporation issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Its principal office is located at Suite D-17 Brig. T. Gaber International Commercial Complex, Rizal Ave. Extension, Brgy. 76 Caloocan City, Metro Manila. Forex Palawan is 60% owned by Absolute Forex Group Phils. Inc. (Absolute Forex) and 40% owned by Forex Palawan Group Phils. Inc. Its primary purpose is to engage in foreign exchange trading. Its directors are Ma. Lourdes Cueto, Rafael L. Palabrica, Manuel Roberto M. Cayo, Eladio B. Jala, Edward L. Lee, Hilbert L. Fuentes, Reynaldo M. Rodriguez and Juan Carlos M. Hernandez and its officers are Reynaldo M. Rodriguez as the President, Hilbert L. Fuentes as the Treasurer and Juan Carlos M. Hernandez as the Corporate Secretary.

Forex Palawan's business model is to engage in foreign exchange trading with the general public in the Philippines. To attract investors, it offers high returns on investments ranging from 10% to 30% per month. Investors are required to open an account with Forex Palawan and deposit money in the account. Forex Palawan then trades foreign currencies using the money deposited in the account. Investors are allowed to withdraw their money from the account at any time. Forex Palawan also encourages investors to refer other persons to open accounts with it. For every person referred by an investor who opens an account with Forex Palawan, the investor receives a commission ranging from 5% to 10% of the amount deposited in the account of the referred person.

Forex Palawan solicits investments from the general public through its website www.forexpalawan.com and through seminars conducted in various venues in the country. Forex Palawan has been conducting seminars in Caloocan City, Quezon City, Pasay City, Makati City, Mandaluyong City, Pasig City, Taguig City, Las Piñas City, Muntinlupa City, Parañaque City, Cavite City, Bacoor, Imus, Dasmariñas, Tagaytay City, Lucena City, Batangas City, Tanauan, Lipa City, Naga City, Legazpi City, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Cebu City, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City, Tacloban City, Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City, Iligan City, Zamboanga City, General Santos City, Koronadal City, Cotabato City, Butuan City, Tagbilaran City, Puerto Princesa City, Baguio City, Dagupan City, San Fernando City, Angeles City, Tarlac City, Olongapo City, Malolos City, San Jose del Monte City, Meycauayan City, Marikina City, Antipolo City, Cainta, Taytay, Rizal, Calamba City, Laguna, Santa Rosa City, Laguna, San Pablo City, Laguna, Los Baños, Laguna, Lucena City, Quezon, Naga City, Camarines Sur, Legazpi City, Albay, Iloilo City, Roxas City, Capiz, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Cebu City, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City, Tacloban City, Leyte, Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City, Iligan City, Zamboanga City, General Santos City, Koronadal City, Cotabato City, Butuan City, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Baguio City, Dagupan City, San Fernando City, La Union, Angeles City, Tarlac City, Olongapo City, Malolos City, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, Meycauayan City, Bulacan

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
2F Andamon Bldg. J. Rizal Avenue, Calamba City
Telefax Nos.: (049) 549-1658

October 10, 2012

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Job/Work
1.	SAMSUL MISSION INTEGRATED SCHOOL INC. Ulango-a-Dalmat, Tagaytay City, Cavite	Mr. Daniel Bojos Cristobal/Filipino/ American	Assistant Principal
2.	SAMSUL MISSION INTEGRATED SCHOOL INC. Ulango-a-Dalmat, Tagaytay City, Cavite	Mr. Dong Won Lee/ Korean	President
3.	BAYANIHANGAN JEONG CLUBE Mahabangkay, Lian, Batangas	Mr. Dongseok Kim/ Korean	Leader/ Driver / Mechanic
4.	LEADER ELECTRONICS (PHILIPPINE BRANCH) INC. Pacific Avenue, Carmelo Cavite	Mr. Chih-Hsin Yang/ Taiwanese	Senior Engineer
5.	EXCELLENT FUSION OF WIRE FABRICATION (EFW) INC. Chabang-Iyang, Lusana City	Mr. Armstrong Manchohsien/Eje-President/ Taiwanese	Administrative Manager
6.	I TAIWA TRADING INC. San Isidro, Taytay Rizal	Mr. Kwan Ren Chen/ Taiwan	Finance Manager
7.	CANON BUSINESS MACHINES (PHILIPPINES), INC. Light Industry and Science Park	Mr. Hiromitsu Suzuki/ Japanese	Alternate GM Dept. Manager
8.	HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE. LTD. Pacific, Cavite	Mr. Kenji Tahei/ Japanese	Technical Advisor - Home Building
9.	S-H-I-S T-O-P SALAS SHIS NO. LTD., INC. Pacific, Cavite	Mr. Eiji Kumonosu/ Japanese	President
10.	TODOR POLYTEK CORPORATION Lima Technology Center Lipa City, Batangas	Mr. Yuichi Onizawa/ Japanese	Sales Manager
11.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Laguna Technopark, Sitan City, Laguna	Mr. Nobuyuki Mikamiya/ Japanese	Assistant to the Senior Manager
12.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Laguna Technopark, Sitan City, Laguna	Mr. Ryuji Inagaki/ Japanese	President to the Senior Manager
13.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Laguna Technopark, Sitan City, Laguna	Mr. Junichi Omura/ Japanese	Assistant to the General Manager
14.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Laguna Technopark, Sitan City, Laguna	Mr. Toshihiro Hanashima/ Japanese	Assistant to the Senior Manager
15.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Laguna Technopark, Sitan City, Laguna	Mr. Norihiro Sakamoto/ Japanese	Assistant to the President
16.	TOSHIBA INFORMATION EQUIPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Laguna Technopark, Sitan City, Laguna	Mr. Tsunekiko Takahashi/ Japanese	Vice President

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with this Regional Director.

ALEXIS AVILA
OIC - Regional Director

To avail of free job referral, placement, and employment guidance services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Offices (PESO) or log on at www.poea.gov.ph

(RP - Oct. 12, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Regional Field Unit V
San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur

INVITATION TO BID

(Supply & Delivery of Twelve (12) Units Hand Tractor/ Power Tiller/Cultivator under RVCD Program)

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. V, CIA RFU V San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur is inviting accredited & qualified manufacturers/ suppliers/ dealers to submit sealed bid to submit quotation and bid for the **Supply and Delivery of Twelve (12) Units Hand Tractor/ Power Tiller/ Cultivator under RVCD Program** per specifications under accompanying bid documents.

The Agency intends to apply the amount of Php1,200,000.00 as Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC).

Bid of Eligible, Responsive, and Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder of the product shall be made available and must be inspected and observed by Provincial Agriculture Coordinator Arsenio Arao Jr., Technician, Jorge Jaime, Planning Officer Ed Belcher, Municipal Agriculturist of Del Gallego on **October 11, 2012** at the Office of RFU No. V on **October 15, 2012**, upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable amount of **Php500.00**. Bidder's Bid Security in the form of **Php 24,000.00** for bid guarantee, bond, surety, Certified Check/Cashier's Check/Manager's Check and Bid Security Declaration, Omnibus Sworn Statement, Philippine Business Area Certificate, Mayor's/Business Permit, Income/Business Tax Return, Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License and Valid Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005 and Certificate of Registration from Securities and Exchange Commission

Invitation to Bid

National Program Support for Environment and Natural Resources Management Program (NPS ENRMP)
CADASTRAL SURVEY PROJECT
(PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY SURVEY), CATEGORY "B"
DENR, Region V
Project ID: DENR-RV-CAD-14-IB-NCB-0012; DENR-RV-CAD-13-IV-NCB-0012
Loan Number: 7510-PH

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of Cadastral Survey and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for Cadastral Projects in the DENR Region V for the following projects:

REFERENCE NO.	LOCATION	DURATION	ABC
DENR-RV-CAD-14-IB-NCB-0012	Municipality of Tabaco, Albay	Three months or Notice to Proceed to End of December 2012	2,100,000.00
DENR-RV-CAD-13-IV-NCB-0012	Municipality of Ragay, Albay	Three months or Notice to Proceed to End of December 2012	2,042,000.00
		TOTAL:	4,142,000.00

2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) - Region V, as agency of the Republic of the Philippines, now invites eligible contractors for eligible projects for the supply of Survey Projects, Systems, which must comply with within two (02) years, a contract will be for the Project for the duration of 14 days as indicated in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with National procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the IRR of RA 9184, with some amendments, as stated in these Notice. Bidding documents shall be open to all eligible bidders unless qualified as defined in the applicable procurement guidelines of the World Bank. The bidders shall not be awarded to the Limited Cadastral Preparation Bidder (LCPB) who was selected as an early award qualification.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Land Management Service, DENR, Region V, Regalo Legazpi City and from the offices of the Bids Secretariat, DENR Regional Office No. V, Rawis, Legazpi City, Albay and may purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday to Friday.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the interested bidders starting October 15, 2012 to November 05, 2012 from the address given below upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the bidding documents in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5, 000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the DENR website: www.denr.gov.ph provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

6. The DENR V Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference to all eligible bidders on October 29, 2012 at 09:00 AM/PM at DENR Regional Office No. V, Rawis, Legazpi City, which shall be open to prospective bidders.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before November 12, 2012, 10:00 AM/PM at DENR Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, DENR Regional Office No. V, Rawis, Legazpi City. Late bids shall not be accepted. The opening shall be on November 12, 2012, 2:00 PM at PAWB Office, DENR V, Regional Office No. V, Rawis, Legazpi City. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following forms and amounts:

Form of Bid Security		Amount of Bid Security (Equal to Percentage of the ABC)
(a)	Cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank.	Five percent (5%)
(b)	Bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank: Provided, however, that it is allowed to be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a Foreign Bank.	

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

9. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region V (LMC) reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to:

Engr. SONNY P. BELARMINO
DENR, ENRM V, Regional Office No. V
Rawis, Legazpi City
Telefax: (052) 481-1865 /
481-1864 Alternate Telefax
Website: www.denr.gov.ph

Date: October 3, 2012

Engr. EMER PEDRO L. HOBLE
LMS/BAC Chairman

(PIDS - October 12, 2012)

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481-3443 • 359-4838
Telefax: 695-3443

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Trunkline: 525-2573
loc. 115 or 116
Telefax: 528-3213

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road
Diliman, 1100 Quezon City
Philippines

INVITATION TO BID
FOR
COMPLETION OF PCC LIVESTOCK BREEDING/FATTENING COMPLEX
Alfonso, Cavite
ITB No. 001-12

The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Office of the Secretary through the PCC 2013 Capital Outlay intends to apply the sum of Seventy-Nine Million Two Hundred Forty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Pesos and 00/100 (Php79,243,990.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Completion of PCC Livestock Breeding/Fattening Complex (Phase III). Bids received in excess of this ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The DA – Office of the Secretary now invites bids for the completion of the livestock breeding/fattening laboratories. Completion of works is required within One Hundred Eighty Calendar Days (180 CD) reckoned from the Issuance of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within the last two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a similar contract to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee – Secretariat, Office of the Secretary and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday to Friday, both to the opening of bids scheduled on 07 November 2012 at 9:30AM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on 12 October to 07 November 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos and 00/100 (Php 50,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Department, provided that the bidder shall pay the fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The DA – Office of the Secretary will host a Pre-Bid Conference on 23 October 2012 at 9:30AM at the DA – ITDI Conference Room, which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:30AM on 07 November 2012. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on 07 November 2012, 9:30AM at the DA-ITDI Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The DA – Office of the Secretary reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Attention: Bids and Awards Committee
2nd Floor, ITDI-AP Building
Department of Agriculture
Diliman, Quezon City

Engr. ALAN Q. UMALI
Assistant Secretary for Administration/
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PIDS - June 14, 2012)

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will hereby accept bids for sale of real properties described in the following schedule:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	SELLING PRICE	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID DEPOSIT
REAL ESTATE				
ANTIPOLO BRANCH				
ANT-001	Residential Lot (TCT No. 37107-R)	1,247,000.00	Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City	249,400.00
ANT-002	Residential Lot (TCT No. 37107-R) (Lot 2, Block 1)	1,247,000.00	Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City	249,400.00
BATAAN				
BAT-001	Agricultural Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	2,179,000.00	Brgy. Tuyo, Balanga	435,800.00
BAT-002	Res. Lot (Lot 1, Block 1, TCT No. T-14,004) with Improvements	1,045,000.00	Brgy. Cataning, Balanga	209,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-003	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-004	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-005	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-006	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-007	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-008	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-009	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-010	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-011	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-012	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-013	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-014	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-015	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-016	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-017	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-018	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-019	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-020	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-021	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-022	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-023	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-024	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-025	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-026	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-027	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-028	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-029	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-030	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-031	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-032	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-033	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-034	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-035	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-036	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-037	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-038	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-039	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-040	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-041	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-042	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-043	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-044	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-045	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-046	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-047	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-048	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-049	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-050	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-051	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-054	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-055	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-056	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-057	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-062	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-063	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-064	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-066	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-067	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-068	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-069	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-070	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-071	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-081	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-084	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-085	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-087	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-095	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-096	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-097	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
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BAT-098	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-099	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00
CLARK				
BAT-100	Industrial Lot (TCT No. T-14,000) with Bldg. & Improvements	4,000,000.00	Brgy. Dolores, Balanga	800,000.00

- @ With encumbrances
- # Occupied by former owner
- ^ With improvements
- ~ With informal settlers
- ! Road right-of-way occupied by squatters
- * With claim/s over
- % Commercialized
- & To sign, have acknowledgment and notarized deed

BIDDING AND PAYMENTS:

1. To inspect the properties before the bidding date and determine their actual condition with Area Office thereof.
2. For participating in sale and submission of bid, official bid form is available during office hours at business branch, on or not more than 2:00 P.M. on bid date.
3. To be a prime, formal bidding accepted and accepting official commitment. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY IRREGULARITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BOARD IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 818-9511 loc. 2755-2811 or 818-9511 or 818-9511 or visit the Bank's Head Office at 7901 Makati Ave., Makati City.

ACQUIRED ASSETS DEPARTMENT

(PIDS - Oct. 12 & 13, 2012)

JOBMARKET *Updates*

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classified Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office/ Makati Branch
Trunkline 897-8650
loc. 514, 515 & 240
Telefax 867-8401 / 890-4407

Alabang/Province Branch
553-7581 – 553-754
Telefax (02) 553-8054

Cubao, Quezon City Branch
421-0340 – 421-4418
Telefax 913-6910

Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City Branch
470-0442 – 570-4638
Telefax 585-3943

South Harbour, Manila Branch
Trunkline 525-8579
loc. 115 or 116
Telefax 528-6315

'BUHAY OFW' holds its 1st Year Anniversary and Trade Exhibits

A TRADE FAIR AND EXHIBIT that will offer Overseas Filipino Workers and their families investment opportunities and to start their own business, will be held on Oct. 13-16, 2012 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Malls, Makati City at 30 Gallons.

This is spearheaded by 'Buhay OFW TV' program, in celebration of its 1st anniversary, and in pursuit of its mission to promote the safety, interest and well-being of OFWs, according to Ms. Marissa Del Mar, an OFW advocate and Buhay OFW TV program host.

Exhibitors are OFW-owned companies, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), National Food Terminal Association, Pag-Ibig Fund, San Miguel Corporation, 5 Grocers, Inc., 1 Stream, Inc., Philippine Veterans Bank, Dieter Pelzl Philippines, McDonalds, Jose Jewish Boutique, UMCI Homes, Inc., New Gen Asia Builders, Inc., SM Development Corporation, Hamilland Development Corporation, Megaworld Corporation, Avida Land Corporation, Amaia Land, Inc., Suntrust Properties, Century Properties, 2Go Travel, Majestic Philippines, Mitsubishi Corporation, First Centennial Development Corp., GIS / IMG Manage Chin, Central Country Estates, Inc./The Lakeshore, Federal Land, Inc., Avalon Philippines, Wide Metroworldlife, Landco Pacific Corporation, Philam Life, Cocoa Realty, Makati Food Corporation, Metrolife Philippines, Philippine Retirement Authority, Intrax Land, Empire East Properties, Robinsons Communities, Camaya Coast, UPSwap/BPI and the Rotary Club of Makati Skyhees.

"The OFWs and their families deserve the best opportunities not only as consumers but also in having their skills in investing their hard-earned money in livelihood and business enterprises that would sustain them," Ms. Del Mar pointed out.

The event will also launch 'Buhay OFW's Search for 'Mr. and Ms. Citizen of the World'. To win simply, this is the combination of both inspiring and success. The epitome of the ultimate Overseas Filipino Worker, the complete package, happy married and fulfilled!

It aims to strengthen and preserve the core values of a happy OFW family, relatives and friends, she added.

There will be panel discussions, entertainment, raffles that everybody can enjoy.

For inquiries you can contact us at 0999 1173 and 996 9228 or visit our website at www.marissadelmar.com or you may email us at millionaireproducers@yahoo.com.

Mastering the Use of LC for Import and Export

IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE transactions such as export and import of goods, the most commonly used instrument of payment is a letter of credit (LC). Unknown to many, there are many pitfalls and traps in the use of various types of letters of credit that can be risky for businesses and can lead to financial losses when done improperly.

To address these issues, the International Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Center for Global Best Practices, will hold a pioneering two-day seminar entitled, 'Best Practices In Letters of Credit' to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, October 24 & 25, 2012, at the Eden Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City. This two-day seminar is a comprehensive guide for participants on everything they need to know about LC transactions. Attendees will learn practical steps in issuing proper LCs and how they avoid what to do to avoid pitfalls, and actions to take in cases of discrepancies. The program will also cover new regulations (and the application of UCP 600) involving letters of credit. This one-time event offers early bird discounts for those who sell/pay early, and group discounts for attendees of 3 or more. For details and a complete list of seminars, you may log on to www.cgbp.org or contact program leader Dennis Bendebera at 841-7146/ 90 and 526-8960/ 6th Cebu Branch (032) 512-1006/ 071 or email at seminar@cgbp.org.

The special, one-of-a-kind program will present easy to understand case studies and samples to highlight best practices pointers and tips, including topics such as our saving areas in LC operations that your banker will never tell you, overcoming delays in payment to LC transactions, liabilities of banks, remedies, and many more. The seminar is applicable to manufacturers, importers, exporters, traders, entrepreneurs, bankers, insurers, transporters of goods, CPOs, company treasurers, and those involved in fully understanding how LCs work.

The lecture will feature Singapore-based expert, Victor Tan, an authority in the field of trading and banking, and who has 15 years of banking experience in the Europe covering areas of international trade finance, remittances, guarantees, and import and export. He has worked with various international banks such as Standard Chartered Bank, Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank, Bangkok Bank, Hong Kong Bank, Abnebara Bank and Barclays Bank, the last of which he served as deputy head of the trade finance department. He conducts highly specialized training programs for clients in Jakarta, Bangkok and Singapore. He will teach attendees all the best practices applications of LCs for max's advantage. Apart from this, he will also be in Manila on Friday, December 7 to lecture on the topic 'The Sino Shipping Terms for Air, Land and Sea INCOTERMS - 2010'. These seminars are limited seats only events and pre-registration is required.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

INVITATION TO BID FOR Procurement of Trucking Service for the relocation of informal Settler Families from Pasig River System

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, through the Government of the Philippines (National Appropriations Act (RA 10155) intends to apply the sum of Three Million Six Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P3,636,300.00) being the approved budget for the contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Trucking Service for the relocation of informal Settler Families from Pasig River System-PRRC-2012-12. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission now invites bids for Procurement of Trucking Service for the relocation of informal Settler Families from Pasig River System. Delivery of the Service is required for one (1) year from the date of NTP. Bidders should have completed, from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 12, 2012 to October 31, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bid.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on October 22, 2012, 1:00 PM at the Four Rivulet Building 69-D, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 31, 2012, 1:00 PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on October 31, 2012, 1:00 PM at 4th Floor, Rivulet Building 69-D, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Mitchell Sheldon
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4th Floor, Rivulet Building, 1910 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone no. 8372-0732
E-mail: mitchell.sheldon@yahoo.com.ph
Telefax no. 410-3185 to 91
Website address: www.prrc.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **Mr. Manuel Aguilar**
BAC Chairperson

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

INVITATION TO BID FOR Procurement of Transport Service (Van) for the relocation of informal Settler Families from Pasig River System

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, through the Government of the Philippines (National Appropriations Act (RA 10155) intends to apply the sum of Three Million Six Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P3,636,300.00) being the approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement of Transport Service (Van) for the relocation of informal Settler Families from Pasig River System-PRRC-2012-13. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission now invites bids for the Procurement of Transport Service (Van) for the relocation of informal Settler Families from Pasig River System. Delivery of the Service is required for one (1) year from the date of NTP. Bidders should have completed, from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to the Entity and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 12, 2012 to October 31, 2012 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bid.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on October 22, 2012, 2:00 PM at 4th Floor, Rivulet Building 69-D, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before October 31, 2012, 1:00 PM. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on October 31, 2012, 1:00 PM at 4th Floor, Rivulet Building 69-D, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Mitchell Sheldon
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4th Floor, Rivulet Building, 1910 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone no. 8372-0732
E-mail: mitchell.sheldon@yahoo.com.ph
Telefax no. 410-3185 to 91
Website address: www.prrc.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **Mr. Manuel Aguilar**
BAC Chairperson

Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Agriculture
Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig
CANTONMENT, NICHOLAS T. GARCIA AVENUE, DAVAO CITY
Telefax: (082) 221-0738 / 221-0739

Invitation to Bid

Supply and Delivery of One (1) unit Mini-Bus, 9 wheels, 20 passenger, 4x2 2800, Odometer of One Crumb is required, ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within **five (5) years** from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II Instructions to Bidders.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **BAC-IC Secretariat, Environmental Section, Procurement and Property Division, Ground Floor, NIA Building A, EDSA, Quezon City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders starting **October 12, 2012 to November 5, 2012** from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Seven Thousand Pesos **(PhP7,000.00)**.

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the NIA website http://www.nia.gov.ph, provided that Bidders shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bid.

5. The National Irrigation Administration will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 22, 2012, 10:00 AM at Chairperson's, 2nd Floor, BIC Building, NIA Complex, EDSA, Quezon City**, which shall be open to all interested parties who purchased the Bidding Documents.

7. Bids must be delivered on or before **November 5, 2012, 9:00 AM**, at the address below.

   Bid opening shall be on **November 5, 2012, 9:30 AM** at **Chairperson's, 2nd Floor, BIC Bldg, NIA Complex, EDSA, Quezon City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

9. Bidders shall warrant that all items to be delivered are new, branded and free from any defects.

10. The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

11. For further information, please refer to:

    Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee-B
    National Irrigation Administration
    c/o BAC-IC Secretariat
    Ground Floor Bldg. A
    NIA Complex, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
    Tel. Nos.: 927-0909,925-4971 loc. 105

(Sgd.) **ATTY. GENEROSO M. CAGANG**
Chairman, BAC-IC

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looking for a job?
email resume to
workinggeniuses4@inquirer.com.ph
or
log on to jobmarketonline.com.ph

Obituaries

In Loving Memory
on the first death anniversary of

Juan Carreon Villaluz, MD, FPOA, FPCS

"Johnny/Jay"

of Nabua, Camarines Sur &
Sta. Rosa City, Laguna

who peacefully passed his Creator on October 12, 2011.

Holy Masses on his intention will be offered on:

Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish Church, ... 6:00 AM
Sta. Rosa City, Laguna

St. John Bosco Parish Church, ... 12:15 PM
Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City

St. Ambrose the Apostle Parish, ... 6:30 PM
BelAir II, Makati City

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though
he dies; and whoever lives and believes in
Me will never die." — **John 11:25-26**

Amparo Abella Manahan

Joined our Creator on October 09, 2012
at the age of 82.

Her remains lie in state at 595 Gen. Luna St.
Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal.

Interment will be on October 13, 2012,
2:00 pm at Parsino Memorial Park.

Her family requests the prayers
of her relatives and friends
for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith." — *2 Timothy 4:7*

WILFREDO BALBARONA ZARAGOZA

Joined our Creator on
October 08, 2012
at the age of 69.

His remains lie in state at
Hebreos Chapel, St. Peter
Chapels, Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City.

Interment will be on
October 13, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at
Himlayang Pilipino.

His family, relatives and
friends request prayers for the
eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

"I have made vows to you, God; with offerings
I will fulfill them." — *Psalm 56:13*

ROBERTO D. BAYOG, SR.

Joined our Creator on
October 09, 2012 at the age of 74.

His remains lie in state at Bethel Chapel,
St. Peter Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 14, 2012 at
Eternal Garden, Caloocan City.

His family requests the prayers of his relatives
and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

"Now if I am allowed to see the work of all the people, You have taught what will come forward and what will not, which will prosper and which will fail, and I am allowed to see the plan of the future and the fulfillment of the plan." — Ecclesiastes 43:10

Today, October 12, 2012 marks the 5th year Luz entered the Threshold of the Great Beyond. Undoubtedly, inner peace and happiness reign in my heart fully aware that Our Heavenly Mother Mary led Luz to the bosom of GOD Almighty

Ambassador Daniel C. Victoria Jr.

Luz B. Victoria

The family of the late Judge Jose Felix Madara
announces the death of their Beloved Mother

MRS. NENITA DE LAS LLAGAS MADARA

Died in the Peace of the Lord on October 6, 2012
at the age of 96, years old at Iriga City.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at
335 Gerona Street, San Roque, Iriga City.

Interment and Funeral mass will be on October 16, 2012, 2:00 P.M.
at San Antonio de Padua Parish Church, Iriga City.

She is survived by her children and grandchildren.

Children
Jo & Bernen Madara, Baby Madara, Bobsy & Linda Madara,
Zeny & Robert Caganda and Larry & Jenper Madara

Grandchildren
Bong & Angie Madara, Jef Madara, Jon & Thaen Mea Madara
Anja & Jeanie Caganda, Riel Caganda, Ria Caganda, Criel Madara
CJ & Mia Madara Santos, Josh Madara & Alexia Madara

Great Grandchildren
Isabelle Madara, London Madara, Pebble Caganda, Gaby Caganda,
Dina Caganda & Cesar Abner Santos

The family is requesting for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25,26

Lovingly Remembered
and Deeply Missed

Rosario Gonzalez Makalintal

October 1, 1912 - October 12, 2010

In memory of the second year of her passing into eternal life.

Her children, Perla, Nenita and Jose Lorenzo and Bobby.

Her grandchildren, Matthew and Lady, Jose Jon and Carla, Gigi and Mavin, Theresa and Ritzey, Annie and Nina, Chris and Michelle, and Mia, and her great grandchildren Julianne, Nicole, Lorenzo, Isabella, Sophia, Christian, Thomas, Sira Dani, Margarita, Enrique, Emilio, Patricia, Michaela, and Amelia request that you keep her in your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at the
Iarla Oratorio Chapel (OSJP)
J. Vicente Road, Pasig City
on October 12 at 11:45 a.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

RAMONCITA LACUAREN BENEDICTO

Died in the grace of our Lord
on October 8, 2012 at the age of 76.

Her remains lie in state
at St. Peter Chapels, Iznaa St., Cuba City.

Interments will be on Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012
at Queen City Garden, North Reclamation Area,
Cuba City after the Mass at 8:30 a.m.
at the Mabolo Parish Church.

Her children – **Edra, Joel** and **Angie, Marlon** and **Elvie, Gemma** and **Franklin, Arjie** and **Ely**, and **Debbie**; grandchildren **Jay-R** and **Luana, Donna** and **Jhonie, Marvil, Mhio, Dianne, Kristo, Normer, Fengre, Nikki** and **John Andre**; and great grandson **Xael Miguel** request prayers of relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

"All those whom God raised the Lord Jesus from death
He will raise us by his power, He will present us,
along with you, to God." – 2 Corinthians 4:14

OFELIA S. RAMILO

Joined our Creator on October 9th, 2012
at the age of 75

Her remains lie in state at 11 Louis St.
GSIS Village, Project 8, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 14, 2012 12:30 pm.
after the Holy Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish
Church, GSIS Village, Quezon City.

Her family requests the prayers of her relatives
and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no fear. For you are with me; your rod and staff give me courage." – Psalm 23:4

CLASSIFIEDS

For those who held your hand. Who cried with you or celebrated with you. To those who gave their prayers...

Send your message of thanks.

Call us, Inquirer Classifieds
Head Office: 896-6000 (Telefax); 896-6001;
897-8000 loc. 314, 316; 896-6002;
Cubao: 433-1430; 433-1431
Makati: 896-3276; 811-4012; 811-4013
Manila: 525-1870 loc. 115 or 116; 528-0131;
Quezon City: 441-0442; 924-6000; 925-3940 (Telefax)

INQUIRER